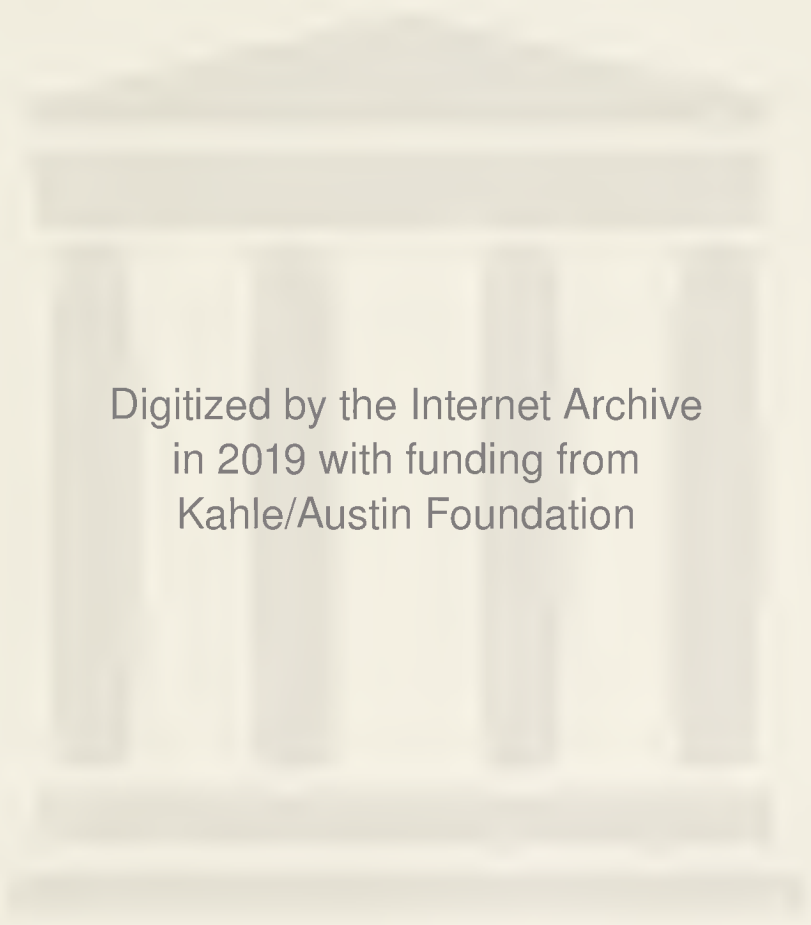


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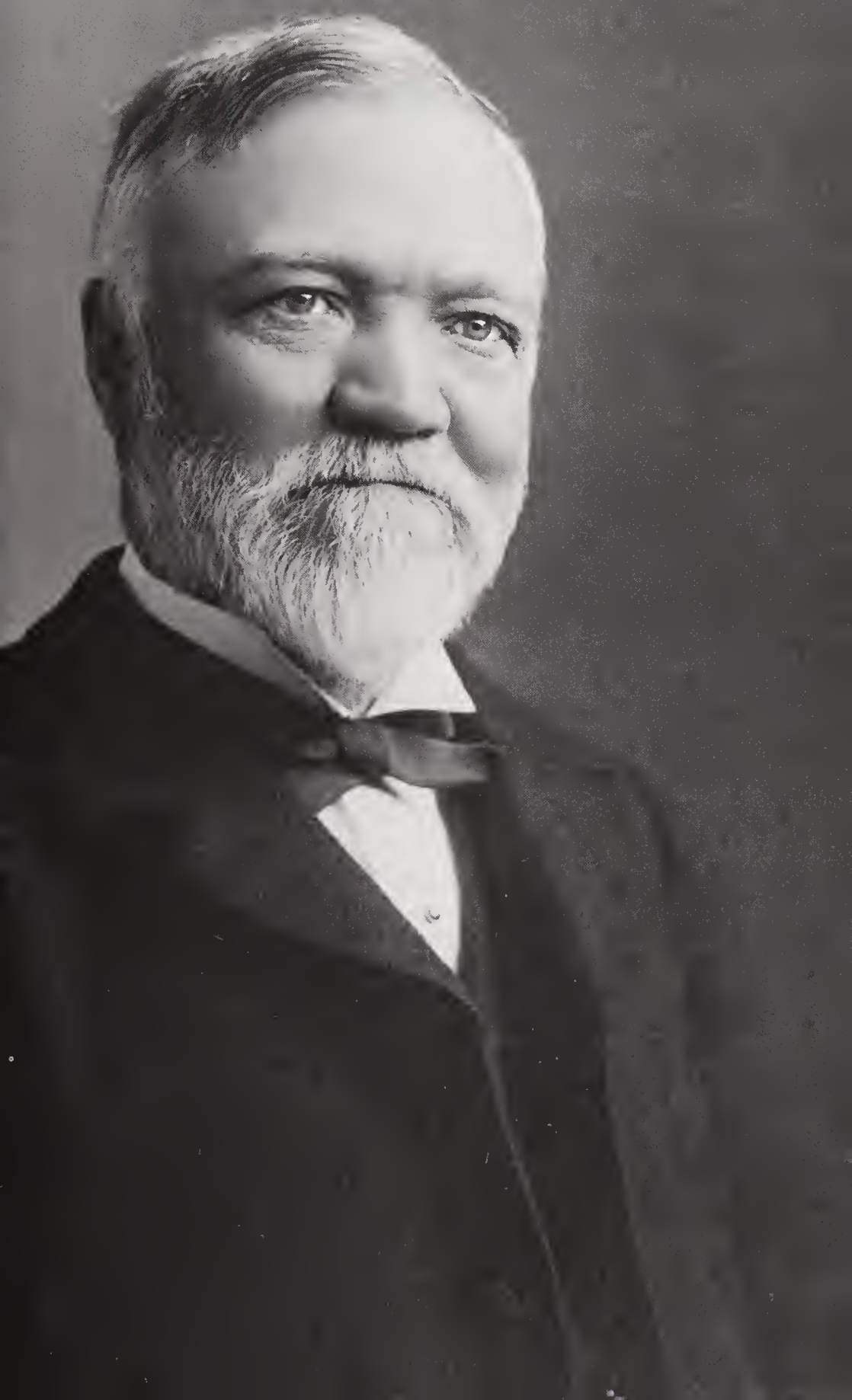
C A R N E G I E

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C O M M I S S I O N



2005 ANNUAL REPORT



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada.

The single event that stimulated Mr. Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh on January 25, 1904, which claimed 181 lives. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in valiant attempts to rescue any survivors.

The tragedy and sacrifices so moved Mr. Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping the “heroes of civilization.” Writing in the Commission’s founding Deed of Trust (see page 5), he specified that each hero to be recognized, or the next of kin, was to receive a medal reciting the heroic deed it commemorated. The Commission was empowered also to make monetary gifts. Given to the heroes or their families, the grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits. More than \$28 million has been given to the awardees or their survivors over the life of the Fund.

Recommendations for awards may be made by anyone having knowledge of such outstanding acts of bravery. Awards are open to all civilian citizens of and visitors to the two countries under regulations presented in detail on the subsequent pages of this report. Each act is investigated as to fact and degree of risk involved and is evaluated by the Commission on the basis of the results of the investigation.

The Commission is a private operating foundation, classed as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Visit the Commission’s Web site for further information: www.carnegiehero.org

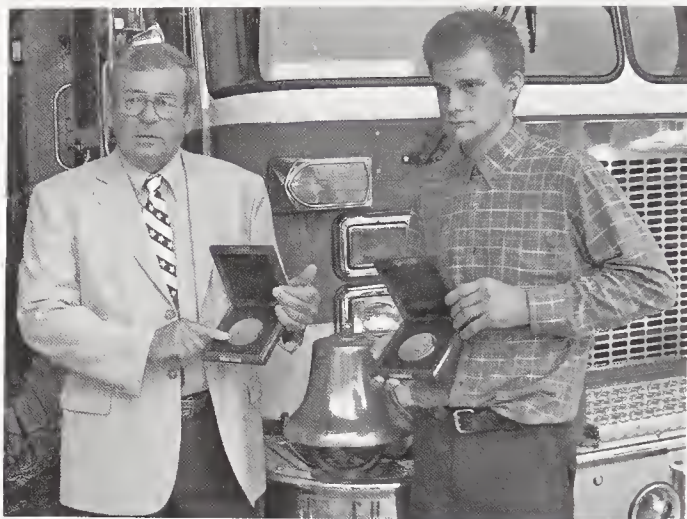
SECOND CENTURY

The Carnegie Hero Fund has launched its second century with a determination to do what we have always done...and to do it better than ever.

The Hero Fund is one of 22 organizations Andrew Carnegie endowed during his lifetime. Twenty-one of these organizations are alive and well today, largely because Carnegie set for each of them a mission of enduring value that inspired his initial trustees and continues to inspire their successors to this day. In our modern, ever-changing world, we value as much as ever the heroism of those who risk all to save others. Our mission is constant.



On the other hand, the Hero Fund does adapt its operations to changing circumstances. For example, our investigators once traveled extensively investigating cases. Calvin Trillin's *New Yorker* article, reprinted in our centennial history, *A Century of Heroes*, chronicled the travels of Herbert W. Eyman, a veteran hero fund investigator who virtually lived on the road a half-century ago. Advances in telecommunications permit our investigators to investigate and document heroic acts while leading relatively normal lives. In other areas, we are expanding our search for heroic acts by using Internet capabilities to supplement our traditional print-media clipping services.



TERRY E. GEORGE, LEFT, AND DELMAR R. BURKHOLDER, BOTH OF NEW BETHLEHEM, PA., WERE EACH AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL IN 2005 FOR SAVING A YOUNG GIRL FROM A BURNING HOUSE IN 2004 (SEE PP. 18 AND 28-29). THE MEDALS WERE PRESENTED BY THE HERO FUND AT A CEREMONY AT THE NEW BETHLEHEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Perhaps the most gratifying change has been in enhancing communications with our medal awardees and their families. For example, our centennial history and video, which accompany every medal, were designed explicitly to communicate to awardees and their families the history of the medal and its many distinguished recipients. A just-launched newsletter, written primarily for awardees, has been a great success, as has been our program of making selected awards in person. The awardees seem to appreciate these efforts.

Thus we begin our second century nurturing the flame sparked by Andrew Carnegie and fueled by the heroic acts of our medal awardees.

Mark Laskow
President

DEED OF TRUST

TO THE HERO FUND COMMISSION

GENTLEMEN: We live in a heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men or women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such the heroes of civilization. The heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

I have long felt that the heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and, as a fund for this purpose, I have transferred to the Commission five million dollars of First Collateral Five Per Cent. Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the proceeds to be used as follows:

FIRST. To place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work. In the case of death, the widow and children, or other dependents, to be provided for until she remarries, and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines as the Commission thinks advisable—each case to be judged on its merits.

SECOND. No grant is to be continued unless it be soberly and properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community, but the heroes and heroines are to be given a fair trial, no matter what their antecedents. Heroes deserve pardon and a fresh start.

THIRD. A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent. The medal shall be given for the heroic act, even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

FOURTH. Many cities provide pensions for policemen, firemen, teachers, and others, and some may give rewards for acts of heroism. All these and other facts the Commission will take into account and act accordingly in making grants. Nothing could be further from my intention than to deaden or interfere with these most creditable provisions, doubly precious as showing public and municipal appreciation of faithful and heroic service. I ask from the Commission most careful guard against this danger. The medal can, of course, be offered in such cases. Whether something more can not judiciously be done, at the request of, or with the approval of, the city authorities, the Commission shall determine. I hope there can be.

FIFTH. The claims upon the Fund for some years can not exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should the Commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured. The action taken in the recent Harwick Mine accident, where Heroes Taylor and Lyle lost their lives, is an illustration. The community first raised a fund of forty thousand dollars, which was duplicated by me after waiting until the generosity of the community had full scope. Here again the Commission should be exceedingly careful, as in this case, not to deaden, but to stimulate employers or communities to do their part, for such action benefits givers themselves as well as recipients.

SIXTH. It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as

drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

SEVENTH. The field embraced by the Fund is the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof. The sea is the scene of many heroic acts. No action more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.

EIGHTH. No personal liability will attach to members for any act of the Commission. The Commission has power to fill vacancies.

NINTH. The Commission has full power to sell, invest, or reinvest all funds; to employ all officials, including Secretary, traveling agents to visit and oversee beneficiaries, etc. and to fix their compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed all expenses incurred, including traveling expenses attending meetings. The President shall be granted such honoraria as the Commission thinks proper and as he can be prevailed upon to accept.

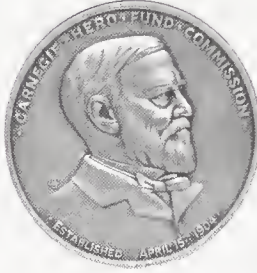
TENTH. An annual report, including a detailed statement of sums and medals granted and the reasons therefor, shall be made each year and published in at least one newspaper in the principal cities of the countries embraced by the Fund. A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh.

Andrew Carnegie

NEW YORK, MARCH 12, 1904

WITNESS, LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

THE CARNEGIE MEDAL



*The Carnegie Medal is awarded to one who,
at the risk of his or her own life, saves or
attempts to save the life of another person.*



Mr. Carnegie's embossed profile dominates the front of the medal. On the reverse side in low relief is the geographical outline of the United States and Canada, the countries to which the Fund applies. In higher relief the seals of these countries are shown, with that of the United States below the inscription plate, and that of Canada above it.

Relief work surrounding the inscription plate reveals a sprig of laurel typifying glory, and above are sprigs of ivy, oak, and thistle, for friendship, strength, and persistence. Encircling the relief work is a quotation from the New Testament (John 15:13): "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CARNEGIE MEDAL

- There must be conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked his or her own life to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificed himself or herself in a heroic manner for the benefit of others.
- The act of rescue must be one in which no full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued.
- The act must have been performed in the United States, Canada, or the waters thereof and must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of rescue.
- Persons *not* eligible for awards are: those whose duties in following their regular vocations require them to perform such acts, unless the rescues are clearly beyond the line of duty; members of the armed services; children considered by the Commission to be too young to comprehend the risks involved; and members of the same family, except in cases of outstanding heroism where the rescuer loses his or her life or is severely injured.

AWARDS

- A medal is presented to the person performing the act or, in case of death, to the widow, widower, or the next of kin.
- When a rescuer loses his or her life in the performance of an act, contributions may be made toward the livelihood of the dependents. If the rescuer is disabled in the performance of the act, periodic contributions may be made to his or her livelihood. If the rescuer is not injured, a monetary grant may nevertheless be made, should the Commission deem such gift desirable. Awardees and the dependents of posthumous and disabled awardees are eligible for scholarship assistance.
- The benefits to be paid and the manner of payment are determined by the Commission after consideration of the circumstances of each awardee. Continuing benefits are paid only if there is clear need for such assistance and only if such benefits are soberly and properly used and the recipients remain respectable members of their communities.

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2005

The following persons were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2005 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism.

In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant of \$3,500 were awarded. The heroes are listed in alphabetical order, following the account of the actions of five men who saved two construction workers after a methane explosion in a coal mine in Cameron, W. Va.



AARON S. MEYER
Cameron, West Virginia

JACK CAIN
Wind Ridge, Pennsylvania

BRENT M. WHARRY
Moundsville, West Virginia

STEVEN M. COOK
Glen Dale, West Virginia

DONALD M. KLINE
Morehead City, North Carolina

Aaron S. Meyer attempted to help rescue Richard F. Brumley and Benjamin L. Bair from effects of an explosion, and **Jack Cain**, **Brent M. Wharry**, **Steven M. Cook**, and **Donald M. Kline** rescued Brumley and Bair,

Cameron, West Virginia, January 22, 2003. Brumley, 51; Bair, 23; and Meyer, 26, driller, were part of a nightshift crew working inside a vertical air shaft that was under construction on the site of a coal mine. Near the bottom of the shaft, which was about 940 feet below ground, they and three other men were on a work platform when a build-up of methane outside the shaft exploded at that level. The explosion injured Brumley, Bair, and Meyer and killed the three other men, and it left dust suspended in the shaft. Meyer pulled Brumley to his feet and helped him to reach a hoist, which would have taken them to the surface, but Brumley was not able to board the hoist because of injury. Forfeiting the opportunity to leave the uncertain, post-explosion atmosphere of the shaft, Meyer sent the conveyance to the surface for additional help as he remained behind to aid the injured men. When the hoist returned empty, Meyer made a second attempt to help Brumley board it, but again the effort was not successful. Meyer left the shaft to obtain help. Without having the shaft's hazards ascertained, he and a coworker, Cain, 44, topman, took the hoist to the floor of the shaft, where Cain concluded that moving Brumley and Bair without medical attention would aggravate their injuries. Meyer and Cain returned to the surface. By then, emergency personnel, including paramedics, firefighters, and two sheriff's deputies, were responding, and paramedics began to treat Meyer for his injuries. Cain asked for help for Brumley and Bair, and of those assembled, the sheriff's deputies, Wharry, 27, and Cook, 27, volunteered, as did Kline, 32, paramedic. None of the volunteers was trained for the purpose, nor had any, save Cain, been inside a mine. The four men descended to the floor of the shaft, where they lifted Brumley into the hoist. They then put Bair on a stretcher and positioned it across the top of the hoist, then they took the hoist to the surface. Brumley and Bair were hospitalized for treatment of extensive and severe injuries. Meyer was treated at the hospital that night for minor burns and cuts and bruising. Recovery of the men who had been killed was effected later that day, after safe conditions inside the shaft were assured.

76612-8937 / 76655-8938 / 76609-8939 / 76610-8940 / 76611-8941



SALVADOR B. AGUSTIN, JR.

San Jose, California

Salvador B. Agustin, Jr., helped to save Everardo Meza from drowning, Hayward, California, September 7, 2004. In a highway accident on a bridge, Everardo, 4, and another boy were thrown from a van over the bridge railing and 20 feet down into San Francisco Bay. Everardo's father, another passenger in the van, jumped into the water from the bridge and held onto Everardo. The water was cold and, because of the incoming tide, was moving swiftly away from that side of the bridge. Agustin, 28, registered nurse, came upon the scene while driving on the bridge. Seeing that another man had jumped into the water for Everardo and his father and concluding that he needed help with them, Agustin removed his outer attire and, not knowing the depth of the water, jumped from the bridge. He swam about 50 feet to where he relieved the other man of Everardo, then he swam back to the bridge as the other man continued with Everardo's father. Those on the bridge had lowered a cable and rope from a tow truck, and by means of those lines all four were pulled from the water. Everardo and his father received hospital treatment for abrasions. Agustin sustained abrasions to his hands and wrists, and he recovered. The other boy was not found. 78120-8957



JOSEPH ANTHONY ALAIMO

West Palm Beach, Florida

Joseph Anthony Alaimo helped to save Abigail P. Slade from drowning, Palm Beach, Florida, March 21, 2004. Abigail, 10, and her cousin were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when they were caught by a strong current that pulled them farther from shore. On the beach in that vicinity, Alaimo, 24, university student, saw them struggling and ran into the water for them, as did the girls' uncle and several other men. After the uncle reached Abigail and towed her toward shore, he was relieved of her by Alaimo. Alaimo took Abigail a distance, then, overcome by exhaustion, was separated from her.

He was rescued from the surf, and Abigail likewise reached shore safely. The uncle lost consciousness and was removed from the water by others. He died of drowning. Alaimo was taken to the hospital, where he was detained six days for treatment of nearly drowning, and he recovered. Abigail and her cousin, who was rescued by others, also were taken to the hospital for treatment, and they too recovered. 77592-8895



CLIFTON ANTHONY
Las Vegas, Nevada

Clifton Anthony saved Matthew Arrigoni from burning, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 19, 2003. In early morning, Matthew, 6 months old, was in a playpen in the living room of his parents' apartment after fire broke out in the adjoining kitchen and filled the living room with dense smoke. Anthony, 44, cashier, who lived next door, was asleep when alerted to the fire by Matthew's mother after she escaped the unit through a window. Responding immediately, Anthony kicked in the front door of the burning apartment and took a few steps into the living room. He was repulsed by the smoke, which offered little or no visibility, and retreated for fresh air. Re-entering, Anthony crawled to the playpen, taking direction from Matthew's mother. He found the infant, picked him up, and took him outside to safety. Neither was injured. 77419-8934



EUGENE BARRETT, JR.
Charlotte, North Carolina

Eugene Barrett, Jr., rescued Amber A. and helped to rescue Mark E. Moose from burning, Charlotte, North Carolina, June 18, 2004. Amber, 3, and her father, Moose, 38, were inside their family's one-story house after fire broke out in a room at one end of the structure before dawn. Barrett, 47, carpenter, who lived nearby, discovered the fire. After reporting it, he ran to the scene, where he kicked in the house's front door, which was near the opposite end

of the structure. Dense smoke issued through the doorway, forcing Barrett to his hands and knees. Taking his flashlight, Barrett crawled into the house, finding there to be no visibility in the smoke, which extended almost to the floor. He found Amber, unconscious and not breathing, on the living room floor about six feet from the door. Barrett pulled Amber to himself and backed out of the house with her, then handed her over to another. Barrett re-entered the house and crawled through the living room into an adjoining room. He found Moose there, also unconscious. Barrett grasped Moose and was able to pull him a few feet before he had to leave the house for air. Barrett entered the house a third time and crawled to Moose. An arriving firefighter also entered the house, and Barrett and he removed Moose through the front door to safety. Moose and Amber were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns; they recovered. Amber's younger sister was recovered from the house by firefighters, but she could not be revived. 77748-8944



JOSHUA L. BELANGER

Clio, Michigan

Joshua L. Belanger helped to rescue Chad A. Turner from burning, Luzerne, Michigan, September 14, 2004. Chad, 10, and his brother were sleeping on the upper level of their family's 1.5-story house after fire broke out there late at night and filled it with dense smoke. A neighbor had penetrated the smoke to find the boys unconscious in a cubbyhole extending the length of the house. The neighbor rescued Chad's brother and had started to remove Chad, but he was repulsed by smoke and heat and returned downstairs. Notified of the fire, Belanger, 22, sheriff's deputy, had responded to the scene by then, even though he was off duty. He went upstairs for Chad, but smoke and heat likewise repulsed him, and he returned to the first floor for a wet cloth. Holding the cloth to his face, Belanger went back to the second floor and crawled about in search of Chad, the smoke severely restricting visibility and inhibiting breathing. He found Chad at the entrance to the cubbyhole. Placing Chad on his back, Belanger carried him downstairs and outside to safety. Both boys were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Belanger sustained mild smoke inhalation. All recovered. 77928-8936



DENNIS BELLEMORE

Manchester, Connecticut

Dennis Bellemore attempted to rescue Irene MacMullen from assault, Manchester, Connecticut, July 22, 2003. Wearing her safety belt, MacMullen, 70, was in the driver's seat of her van, which was parked in the lot of a supermarket. A man approached, opened the driver's door, and attempted to remove her from the vehicle. She shouted for help and sounded the van's horn. Walking nearby, Bellemore, 39, furniture repairman, heard MacMullen's screams and ran to the van to investigate. The assailant climbed over MacMullen into the passenger seat of the vehicle and pushed her through the driver's door to the pavement. When Bellemore stepped up to her to remove her safety belt, the assailant started to drive the van away, entangling both MacMullen and Bellemore in the straps of the belt. The assailant sped through the parking lot, dragging MacMullen and Bellemore for more than 500 feet before they were released. He then fled the scene in the van. MacMullen and Bellemore were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for extensive abrasions. The assailant was arrested the following day. 78072-8906



MICHAEL BENNETT

Castleton, New York

Michael Bennett attempted to help rescue an indeterminate number of persons from assault, East Greenbush, New York, February 9, 2004. A 16-year-old boy entered a restroom of the high school he attended, then emerged brandishing a loaded 12-gauge shotgun. He fired two shots at students in the hall but missed, and the students fled to safety. In a classroom in that wing of the building, Bennett, 36, teacher, heard the gunshots and, following the school's assistant principal, proceeded through the hall to investigate. Turning a corner, they saw the armed assailant about 20 feet away. The assistant principal immediately ran to him, grasped him, and started to struggle against him for control of the gun. The assailant fired again, striking Bennett

in the leg as he approached. The assistant principal convinced the assailant to release the gun, which he then handed over to another teacher. Police arrived shortly and arrested the assailant. Bennett required hospital treatment for his wound. 77522-8917



ROBYN S. BOGGS

Fairfax, Virginia

Robyn S. Boggs saved Sarah J. Planakis from being struck by a motorboat, Stafford, Virginia, August 17, 2003. Using floatable seat cushions, Sarah, 11, and her aunt, Boggs, 45, bartender, were floating and swimming in the Potomac River about 2,000 feet from the nearer bank while other family members were water skiing from an 18-foot motorboat in the vicinity. As the boat headed toward Sarah and Boggs, it made an abrupt turn and proceeded directly toward Sarah. Boggs, who was about 12 feet away from Sarah, immediately swam to her. She pounced on Sarah and submerged her but was then struck by the boat herself. The boat's propeller caught her along her left side, inflicting cuts from shoulder to knee and almost severing her arm. Boggs then became caught in the boat's ski tether and was dragged a short distance before the tether broke. The operator of the boat took the craft to a stop, and Sarah, uninjured, swam to it. Other family members entered the water to aid Boggs, who was eventually returned to the bank by boat. She was flown to a hospital, where she was detained for treatment of severe injuries, including the loss of her arm, which left her disabled. 77827-8948



NORMAND BOUCHER

Manotick, Ontario

Normand Boucher saved Mary E. J. Burt from drowning and helped attempt to save Garry Burt, Manotick, Ontario, January 12, 2003. Burt and his wife, both 48, were riding a snowmobile at night on the ice-covered Rideau River when the machine broke through and sank, spilling them into the frigid water at a point about 90 feet from the closer bank. They surfaced.

Ms. Burt held to the ice and yelled for help, but her husband was inert. In his nearby home on the closer bank, Boucher, 45, police officer, was alerted to the situation. He obtained an aluminum stepladder from his shed and went out onto the ice. To distribute his weight more evenly, he lay on the stepladder, then he propelled himself to the eight-foot hole containing the victims. At the edge of the hole, Boucher grasped Ms. Burt by her attire and pulled her onto solid ice. In repeated attempts he tried to pull Burt out in a similar manner, in the process losing use of the ladder and finding himself unable to move backward. Lying in three inches of water, Boucher retained his hold on Burt to keep his head above water. A neighbor approached and threw one end of a rope to Boucher, but he could not manipulate it. A responding police constable crawled out to Boucher, tied the rope around him, then pulled Boucher backward, resulting in Boucher pulling Burt from the water and onto the ice. Burt and his wife were taken to the hospital, where Burt succumbed to effects of his ordeal. Ms. Burt was treated for hypothermia, and she recovered. Boucher also showed the effects of hypothermia and recovered. 78163-8954



MARK RICHARD BRADLEY

Braintree, Massachusetts

Mark Richard Bradley saved Catherine M. O'Connor from assault, Braintree, Massachusetts, August 28, 2003. O'Connor, 43, was stopped in her car in traffic on a highway off-ramp when two men approached her vehicle. One man opened the rear door of her car, got into the back seat, and pointed a handgun at her, and the second entered the front seat. O'Connor shouted for help. In his pickup truck on the ramp behind O'Connor's vehicle, Bradley, 31, court officer, saw the situation develop. He shouted at the assailants as he approached in his truck, then he moved the vehicle forward and intentionally struck the front driver's side of O'Connor's car to push it into the guide rail and block it there. The assailants exited the car and fled the scene. They were apprehended several days later. Bradley sustained a laceration to his leg; he recovered. 77150-8874



DELMAR R. BURKHOLDER

New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Delmar R. Burkholder helped to rescue Alexandria D. Hopper from burning, New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, October 7, 2004. Alexandria, 8, was in a bedroom in one end of her family's ranch house when leaking natural gas exploded in the basement in early morning. Much of the structure collapsed, and flames broke out on it and began to spread quickly. A neighbor, Burkholder, 22, contractor, saw the fire while driving by. He stopped at the scene, where he learned from Alexandria's mother that Alexandria and her sister were still in the structure. Alerting another neighbor who had responded, the men ran to the end of the house containing Alexandria's bedroom and found the sister sitting just outside the structure, near where a hole had been blown in the bedroom wall. Burkholder took the sister to safety then entered the bedroom through the hole, joining the other neighbor inside. Alexandria was in her bed, trapped there by fallen debris. The men worked to free her by attempting to lift the debris and kick apart the bed, but they were unsuccessful. As flames encroached, including below them in the basement, overhead in the roof structure, and at points in the bedroom, the men with difficulty pulled Alexandria free. They fled the house with her, Burkholder taking her to safety. Flames shortly engulfed the house, which was destroyed. Alexandria and her sister were hospitalized for treatment of their injuries, Alexandria's including burns to her hands. They recovered.

78066-8899



STEVEN P. CLOTHIER II

Conway, South Carolina

Steven P. Clothier II saved James T. Shaw from suffocation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, December 8, 2003. Shaw, 42, sat injured and dazed in a cloud of chlorine gas in the laundry room of a large hotel after an explosion in that room that was caused by the accidental mixing of two incompatible chemicals. Clothier, 29, police officer, was parked nearby and heard the

explosion. He responded to the hotel and entered it through a door that opened into a room off the laundry room. He saw Shaw on the floor about 17 feet ahead and started through the vapor cloud to him, but he was repulsed by the strong fumes and returned outside. Re-entering, he went to Shaw, pulled him to his feet, and walked him toward the door. They were met near the door by a responding firefighter, who took Shaw from Clothier, and all three exited the building. Shaw was hospitalized for treatment of injuries, including broken bones, received during the explosion. Clothier was hospitalized overnight for treatment of exposure to the gas. He did not resume his normal work routine for two months. 77643-8887



STEPHEN F. COENEN

New Orleans, Louisiana

Stephen F. Coenen rescued Michael Williams from assault, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 7, 2002. While he was walking along a residential street late at night, Williams, 36, was attacked by two men, one of whom was armed with a loaded handgun. They took him to the pavement and beat and robbed him. Returning on a bicycle to his nearby home, Coenen, 53, landscape architect, witnessed the assault. He approached the scene on his bicycle and shouted at the assailants to stop the attack, but to no effect. Coenen advanced to a point closer, then picked up his bicycle and threw it at the assailants. The armed assailant aimed his gun at Coenen and shot him in the chest. Coenen collapsed. The assailants fled but were later apprehended. Coenen and Williams were taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries, Coenen's including a collapsed lung that required a hospital stay and a two-month convalescence. 76974-8926



RICHARD CONRAD

Toms River, New Jersey

Richard Conrad died helping to save Michael D. Ford from drowning, Seaside Park, New Jersey, September 13, 2004. Ford, 44, was wading in the Atlantic Ocean when he lost his footing and was pulled by a current away from shore. Unable to stand, he attempted to swim back to shore but made no progress. He yelled for help. Conrad, 72, retired engineering technician, was lounging on the beach in that vicinity. He and two other men ran into the water and swam to Ford, who was struggling to keep his head above water. They got Ford atop a plastic surfboard and began to swim back to shore. Conrad, however, stopped swimming and was observed apart from the others, floating face down in the water. Lifeguards from a neighboring municipality arrived and swam to Conrad. They returned him to shore, where they and responding paramedics attempted to revive him. Conrad was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Ford and the two other men reached shore safely. 77999-8910



CHRISTOPHER CRANFORD

Humble, Texas

Christopher Cranford rescued a woman from a runaway automobile, Houston, Texas, November 14, 2003. A 47-year-old woman was the passenger of an automobile being driven on a beltway when the car was struck by a 300-pound tire that had detached from a tractor-trailer traveling on the same highway. The driver of the car was killed instantly, and the car continued forward, out of control. It veered in and out of the inner emergency lane, striking the concrete medial barrier repeatedly. Another motorist, Cranford, 18, plumber, was traveling behind the car and witnessed the accident, then, passing, saw the woman struggling to control the car. Cranford drove his half-ton pickup truck into the emergency lane at a point about 30 feet ahead of the car and removed his foot from the accelerator. After having traveled out of control for a half-mile, the car, then going about 45 m.p.h., struck the

back of the pickup, pushing it forward 10 feet. Cranford applied his vehicle's brakes and took both vehicles to a stop. The woman was not badly injured. Cranford sustained back pain and soreness, and he recovered within a week.

77301-8875



KEVIN JAMES CROWLEY

Cardington, Ohio

Kevin James Crowley saved Garrett M. Bowers and Lawrence W. Ashman from burning, Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 17, 2004. Garrett, 17, remained in the driver's seat, and Lawrence, 17, in the front passenger seat, of a car that caught fire at its rear end in a highway accident. Crowley, 47, charity director, was the passenger in the other car involved in the accident. After securing the safety of that car's driver, Crowley responded to the driver's side of the burning car, despite his having sustained a head wound in the accident that was bleeding. He opened the door, released Garrett's safety belt, and removed him from the car, in which flames had spread to the back seat. After moving Garrett to safety, Crowley went to the front passenger door of the car but found it locked. He broke out the door's window, reached in, and opened the door. Leaning into the car, Crowley released Lawrence's safety belt, then grasped Lawrence, who was unconscious, and pulled him from the car. He dragged Lawrence to safety less than a minute before flames engulfed the car. Garrett and Lawrence, whose hair was singed, required hospital treatment for injuries sustained in the accident. Crowley also was treated at the hospital, for his head wound. All recovered. 77499-8873



EARL E. CUMMINS

Fairhope, Pennsylvania

Earl E. Cummins saved Mary E. Shaffer from burning, Hyndman, Pennsylvania, September 29, 2004. At night, Shaffer, 76, was in the kitchen of the single-story house in which she lived after fire broke out at the rear exterior of the structure. Driving nearby, Cummins, 72, retired steelworker,

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saw flames issuing high above the house. Acquainted with Shaffer, he parked at the scene, positioning his car so that its headlights shined into the house through a large front window. He then approached the house, opened the front door, and shouted for Shaffer. Hearing her response, Cummins entered the house and, crouched over in the dense smoke and intense heat, followed her voice. He found Shaffer about 20 feet away, in the kitchen. She was hesitant to leave without her pets, but Cummins pushed her along as he retraced his course to the front door. They exited to safety. Flames spread quickly into the house. Both Shaffer and Cummins inhaled smoke, Cummins requiring hospital treatment. They recovered. 78022-8961



ELNORA DENMARK

Dallas, Texas

Elnora Denmark saved L. S. Thompson, Jr., from burning, Dallas, Texas, January 1, 2004. Thompson, 79, who was unable to walk, was in bed in a bedroom at one end of his one-story house when a small airplane crashed into the house's integral garage, which was at the opposite end. Flames broke out in the garage and grew to issue high above it. Denmark, 51, who was Thompson's caregiver, was in the kitchen at the time of the crash and was knocked to the floor. Dazed, she regained her footing and went to the front door, which she propped open. She then turned and made her way through thick smoke and intense heat to Thompson's bedroom as flames spread into the house. Shouting to Thompson that they had to get out of the house, Denmark placed a blanket over him, then lifted him from the bed. She carried Thompson through the house to the front door, where she was aided in getting him to safety outside. The house was destroyed in the accident and fire, which claimed the lives of the plane's pilot and his passenger. Denmark sustained neck and back injury that required therapy. 77432-8951



DAMION DEROBBIO

Struthers, Ohio

Damion DeRobbio helped to rescue Mackenzie N. Palmer from burning, Pulaski, Pennsylvania, April 22, 2004. Mackenzie, 6, was in a bedroom of her family's one-story house after fire broke out in the adjoining living room at right. Her mother fled the house after conditions prevented her from reaching the bedroom. She alerted a neighbor, DeRobbio, 25, laborer, who responded to the scene. DeRobbio and an off-duty police officer who also responded attempted to gain entry to the house through a rear window, but they were unsuccessful. The officer then broke out a side window to Mackenzie's room and, stepping on a chair, attempted to climb through, but his duty belt prevented him from clearing the narrow opening. DeRobbio then stepped on the chair, entered the smoke-filled bedroom through the window, and dropped to the floor. He crawled to Mackenzie's bed, grasped her, then returned to the window with her. DeRobbio handed Mackenzie through the window to the officer, then exited the house through the window himself. Mackenzie was taken to the hospital, where she was detained for treatment of smoke inhalation. She recovered. DeRobbio sustained cuts to his knee and shoulders and minor smoke inhalation, and he too recovered.

77606-8871



ROBERT DIAZ

Huffman, Texas

Robert Diaz died attempting to help save Hedilberto Martinez, Jr., from drowning, South Padre Island, Texas, August 20, 2004. Martinez, 18, was swimming in the Gulf of Mexico when he was carried away from shore by a strong current. Unable to return against the current to shore, he called for help. On the beach in that vicinity, Diaz, 46, business operator, and others were alerted to his plight. Diaz entered the water and waded and swam to Martinez, then grasped him. A woman who also swam out from the beach arrived. Martinez grasped her and held to her as she swam, with difficulty,

back to shore. Diaz, meanwhile, also encountered difficulty in the water, which was rough, as it was a windy day. The woman and others swam out to him, finding him floating face down. They returned him to shore and attempted to revive him. He was removed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead of drowning. Martinez was not injured. 78009-8923



JOHN GLENN DUBOIS

Regina, Saskatchewan

John Glenn Dubois rescued Rochelle M. Rose and Thomas L. Giles from assault, Regina, Saskatchewan, June 19, 2003. Rose, 28, and her son Thomas, 4, were in a bedroom of their one-story house when a man armed with a steak knife broke down the front door, entered, and, threatening to kill Rose, proceeded to the bedroom. The assailant had just broken into other houses on that block, and neighbors, including Dubois, 43, who was disabled, witnessed the break-in at Rose's house. Obtaining a wooden broom handle from his next-door home, Dubois entered Rose's house, where he found that the assailant was holding the door to the bedroom closed. Dubois forced his way into the bedroom and struggled against the assailant, disarming him of the knife. As Rose and Thomas fled the house, Dubois pinned the assailant to the floor with the broom handle, the assailant continuously struggling against him. Police officers responded shortly and with difficulty handcuffed the assailant. Neither Dubois nor Rose or Thomas was injured. 77009-8927



JUSTIN D. DUNHAM

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Justin D. Dunham saved Robert K. Massie from drowning, Nantucket, Massachusetts, September 3, 2004. While in wadable water of the Atlantic Ocean, Massie, 48, stepped from a drop-off into water over his depth and was carried from shore by a strong current. Unable to return against the current, Massie signaled to persons on the beach for help; those who attempted a rescue were thwarted by rough water conditions, including high breakers, and

others who were asked to help refused, citing same. Dunham, 18, college student, was on the beach, having earlier concluded that the ocean was too rough for surfing. When alerted to Massie's situation, he immediately ran into the water with his 62-inch surfboard and, penetrating the breakers, paddled out to Massie, then about 300 feet from shore. He positioned Massie on his board and, joining him there, began kicking and paddling a return. En route to shore, they were knocked from the surfboard and submerged a few times by waves, and the board once hit Dunham in the head, inflicting a welt. They safely reached the beach, where Massie was examined by rescue personnel. He was uninjured. 77902-8911



MIRANDA A. ELKINS

Gainesville, Texas

Miranda A. Elkins saved Hedilberto Martinez, Jr., and helped attempt to save Robert Diaz from drowning, South Padre Island, Texas, August 20, 2004. Martinez, 18, was swimming in the Gulf of Mexico when he was carried away from shore by a strong current. Unable to return against the current to shore, he called for help. On the beach in that vicinity, Diaz, 46, and Elkins, 22, college student, were among those alerted to his plight. Diaz entered the water and waded and swam to Martinez, then grasped him. Elkins also swam out to him. After Martinez grasped Elkins and submerged her, Elkins surfaced and talked to him, to calm him. On her direction, he then held to her as she swam toward shore. As it was a windy day, their progress was hampered by rough water and the current. They reached shore safely. Diaz, meanwhile, also encountered difficulty in the water. Elkins and three others swam out to him, finding him floating face down. They returned him to shore and attempted to revive him. He was removed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead of drowning. Neither Martinez nor Elkins was injured.

78122-8924



MARIA CHRISTINE ERICSON

Swiftwater, Pennsylvania

Maria Christine Ericson saved Evan J. Moore from burning, Swiftwater, Pennsylvania, December 7, 2004. Evan, 1, was in his crib in a bedroom of his family's single-story house after fire broke out in a nearby bedroom and filled the house with dense smoke. Alerted to the fire, neighbors, including Ericson, 42, human resources director, responded to the scene. Ericson climbed a ladder at the window to Evan's room, then broke out the window and entered the house. Heat was intense in the bedroom, and dense smoke kept her from seeing. Walking with outstretched hands, Ericson located the crib, then found Evan. She picked him up, took him to the window, and handed him outside to safety, then she climbed through the window to safety. Flames spread inside the house and claimed the lives of his two sisters, but Evan was not injured. 78187-8958



CAMRON ERWAY

Larned, Kansas

Camron Erway saved Lawrence D. Frizell from burning, Larned, Kansas, December 10, 2004. At night, Frizell, 49, fell asleep in the living room of the single-story house in which he lived. Fire broke out in that room and filled it with dense smoke. A neighbor driving near the scene, Erway, 33, financial planner, discovered the fire and reported it. Despite flames issuing from the living room windows, Erway approached the house, opened the front door, and, leaning inside, shouted for any occupants. He heard moaning. Erway entered the house and immediately went to his hands and knees in the dense smoke and intense heat. Following the sound of the moaning, he advanced toward Frizell, who lay unconscious on the floor about 10 feet from the door. As a smoldering upholstered chair blocked Erway's path, he pushed it out of the way. He then grasped Frizell by his jacket and, retracing his course,

dragged him to the door, then outside to safety as flames spread in the living room. Frizell was hospitalized overnight for treatment of smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 78185-8932



COURTNEY A. FREDERICK

Plainfield, Indiana

Courtney A. Frederick rescued Ciera S. Davis from burning, Martinsville, Indiana, May 13, 2004. Ciera, 2, was spending the night with members of her extended family in a one-floor apartment that adjoined a large barn. Early in the morning, leaking propane in the structure exploded, causing major collapse of the apartment unit and eruption of flames, which grew and spread quickly. Frederick, 28, Ciera's cousin, escaped the building with other family members. A man who responded to the scene saw Ciera in the apartment living room, but she was beyond his grasp as he reached through a window for her. Although she had been burned in the explosion, Frederick re-entered the structure, through a hole that had been created in one of the walls. She crossed the living room, which was on fire, and approached Ciera, having to reach through flames to grasp her. Retracing her steps, Frederick carried Ciera outside to safety. Flames engulfed the apartment, which was destroyed, as was a portion of the barn. Ciera and Frederick required hospitalization for treatment of their burns, Frederick's including third-degree to her upper and lower extremities. They recovered. 77707-8885



MARK J. FRIEDRICH

Edinburgh, Indiana

Mark J. Friedrich rescued Katie R. Shelton from two attacking dogs, Seymour, Indiana, January 26, 2004. Katie, 8, was walking along a residential street when she was attacked by two Rottweilers, each weighing more than 80 pounds. The dogs took her to the ground and bit her repeatedly. Mark, 14, student, who lived at the scene, saw the attack and immediately responded from his family's house, taking two sticks with him. He struck the

dogs repeatedly with the sticks, but then the dogs turned on him and attacked, one of them biting him in the arm. A 79-year-old neighbor responded with a stick and struck one of the dogs as a police officer was approaching. The dogs turned on the officer, who then shot both of them. The dogs fled but were tracked down and dispatched. Katie and Mark were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for their bite wounds. They recovered. 77507-8896



SHARON GARDNER

Oro Valley, Arizona

Sharon Gardner helped to rescue Margaret V. Wiles from attacking dogs, Tucson, Arizona, October 8, 2003. Wiles, 54, was walking her dog through a residential neighborhood when she and the dog were attacked by two pit bull dogs, one weighing 50 pounds and the other, 30. The larger pit bull bit her on the leg as she secured her own dog and tried to fight off the attacking dogs with a leash. She screamed for help. Gardner, 57, administrative assistant, was approaching the scene in her automobile when she saw the attack. She left her car and ran to Wiles, positioning herself between Wiles and the attacking dogs and yelling at the dogs to distract them. Two other motorists stopped at the scene and joined in the rescue, enabling Wiles and her dog to secure refuge in a car. The dogs then turned on Gardner, the larger dog biting her on her right leg, and she fell to the pavement. One of the other responding motorists struck the dogs repeatedly with her purse. The dogs retreated. Wiles sustained minor injury, but Gardner required hospital treatment, including suturing, for her bite wounds. 77641-8889



TERRY E. GEORGE

New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Terry E. George helped to rescue Alexandria D. Hopper from burning, New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, October 7, 2004. Alexandria, 8, was in a bedroom in one end of her family's ranch house when leaking natural gas exploded in

the basement in early morning. Much of the structure collapsed, and flames broke out on it and began to spread quickly. A neighbor, George, 59, construction estimator, saw the fire while driving by. He stopped at the scene and was reporting the fire when another neighbor who had responded informed him that Alexandria and her sister were still in the structure. The men ran to the end of the house containing Alexandria's bedroom and found the sister sitting just outside the structure, near where a hole had been blown in the bedroom wall. As the other man took the sister to safety, George entered the bedroom through the hole and found Alexandria in her bed, trapped there by fallen debris. He tried to free her by attempting to lift the debris and kick apart the bed, but he was unsuccessful. The other neighbor then joined him and likewise worked to free Alexandria. As flames encroached, including below them in the basement, overhead in the roof structure, and at points in the bedroom, the men with difficulty pulled Alexandria free. They fled the house with her, the neighbor taking her to safety. Flames shortly engulfed the house, which was destroyed. Alexandria and her sister were hospitalized for treatment of their injuries, Alexandria's including burns to her hands. They recovered. 77989-8898



DENNIS D. GILLESPIE

Robstown, Texas

Dennis D. Gillespie died after saving Casey V. Burriola from drowning, Concan, Texas, June 30, 2004. Burriola, 48, and his friend Gillespie, 33, senior millwright, were kayaking the Frio River with another friend. The river, in flood stage as the result of recent rains, poured over a low-water crossing in a four-foot-high waterfall that dropped to a pool about five feet deep. The three kayaked over the crossing, Gillespie and the other friend continuing downstream without incident. Burriola's kayak, however, became caught in the backwash at the base of the waterfall. It rolled, spilling him into the water. Unable to overcome the downward pull of the backwash, Burriola signaled for help. Gillespie returned to the crossing in his kayak and at the waterfall freed Burriola. Burriola swam to safety. Gillespie's kayak then

rolled, spilling him into the backwash and trapping him there. Others using a line and an inflated inner tube pulled him to the bank. Attempts to revive Gillespie failed, as he had drowned. 77760-8912



DOMENIC G. GIUNTA

Lutz, Florida

Domenic G. Giunta died after helping to save a boy from drowning, Dunedin, Florida, July 21, 2004. A young boy was wading atop a sandbar in the Gulf of Mexico with his three brothers and their grandmother when a strong current pulled them into deeper water. They shouted for help. Giunta, 55, retired educator, and his family were fishing just off the beach in the vicinity when they were alerted to the situation. Giunta, his daughter, and others responded, the daughter swimming out to the boy, who grasped her about the neck. Giunta reached them and took the boy from her. He supported the boy but submerged, then was relieved of him by the grandmother. The boy and the other members of his party and their rescuers all reached shore safely. Giunta was removed from the water by others, and resuscitation was attempted. He was taken to the hospital but could not be revived, as he had drowned. 77796-8902



STEVEN GLENN

Las Vegas, Nevada

Steven Glenn rescued Kathryn A. Atkinson and helped to rescue Susan H. Rhodes from assault, Henderson, Nevada, December 10, 2002. Atkinson, 56, and Rhodes, 54, were at work in a county social services office when an enraged man who was armed with three knives attacked Atkinson on the front porch of the office building, stabbing and cutting her repeatedly. Glenn, 32, security officer, was inside the building when he heard Atkinson scream, then saw the attack taking place. Although he was unarmed, Glenn ran across the waiting room to the porch, opened the front door, and knocked the assailant off Atkinson. The assailant recovered and stabbed

Glenn in the chest, then he entered the building and attacked Rhodes, stabbing her twice, as she was attempting to call police from the waiting room. Glenn re-entered the building, where, joined by others, he engaged in intense fighting to keep the assailant from Rhodes. Police arrived shortly and apprehended the assailant. Atkinson, Rhodes, and Glenn all required hospital treatment for stab wounds, cuts, and other injuries, Glenn's including fractures to his lower back. He was left partially disabled. 77320-8928



DEL'TRONE D. GOMILLIA

Wilbur by the Sea, Florida

Del'Trone D. Gomillia died attempting to save Cody G. and Terrance N. Szafraniec, Jr., from drowning, Wilbur by the Sea, Florida, September 18, 2004. While playing in wadable water of the Atlantic Ocean near shore, Cody, 9, and his father, 28, lost their footing and were pulled a distance seaward by a strong current. Clinging to a child's boogie board, they shouted for help. Others at the beach, including Gomillia, 21, assistant manager, who was wading near shore, heard their shouts. Gomillia immediately started to swim toward Szafraniec and his son but about halfway there was himself caught in the current and also taken far out. Responding lifeguards took Szafraniec and Cody to shore, where Szafraniec received hospital treatment. He recovered. Gomillia was found by rescue personnel and returned to shore, but he could not be revived. 77934-8952



ROBERT B. GOTTSCHALK

Richmond, Virginia

Robert B. Gottschalk helped to save Aja D. Queen from burning, New Kent, Virginia, April 30, 2004. Queen, 25, remained in the driver's seat of her car after an accident in which the vehicle left the highway, entered a wooded median, and caught fire in its engine area. Gottschalk, 60, psychiatrist, who had been driving behind Queen, witnessed the accident and stopped at the scene. He approached the burning car and, despite growing flames, leaned

inside through the driver's doorway and unfastened Queen's safety belt. He then grasped Queen about the arms and pulled her from the vehicle. As Queen outweighed him and was otherwise immobilized by her injuries, Gottschalk remained with her until another motorist, who removed Queen's children from the car, responded and helped take her to safety. Flames by then had spread throughout the inside of the vehicle and issued high above it. Queen was hospitalized for treatment of her injuries, but she was not burned. She recovered. 77667-8892



ROBERT LEE HANSON

Triadelphia, West Virginia

Robert Lee Hanson helped to save Mildred M. Thompson, Jamie L. Holeczy, and others from drowning, Wheeling, West Virginia, September 17, 2004. Thompson, 80, and her great-niece, Holeczy, 22, were in Thompson's house, on the bank of Middle Wheeling Creek, after the creek flooded as the result of heavy rain from the remnants of a hurricane. Floodwater overtook the houses along that side of the street, trapping Thompson, Holeczy, and others, and it inundated the street, flowing swiftly there. Hanson, 42, railroad engineer, was visiting in the vicinity when he learned of the stranded residents. He responded to the scene and with another man started to wade across the street to Thompson's house. They were swept downstream about 115 feet by the current, or to the point at which each stopped himself by grabbing a tree. Hanson and the other man resumed wading to Thompson's house, where they forced open the front door. They picked Thompson up and, carrying her, waded through the neighboring properties along the street toward an office building, which, 300 feet away, was not significantly affected by flooding. En route, they set her down to allow Hanson to return to the house for Holeczy. The men then resumed their course through the floodwaters toward the office building with Thompson and Holeczy and once there forced entry for refuge. With other means of rescue not available for the remaining stranded residents, Hanson and the other man returned to the flooded houses, from which they helped two women to safety in the office building. After the other man made a third trip to the flooded houses, to aid

a man stranded there, the victims were removed from the office building to safety by means of a military truck. Holeczy sustained a cut to her left foot, and Hanson suffered bruises to his legs. They recovered. 78174-8945



FRANK L. HUBBARD

Goldston, North Carolina

Frank L. Hubbard rescued Terry D. Thompson from burning, Sanford, North Carolina, March 11, 2004. Thompson, 60, was unconscious in the driver's seat of a pickup truck after it collided with a tractor-trailer at an intersection. Flames immediately broke out at the pickup and grew rapidly, entering the cab of that vehicle and spreading to the tractor. Hubbard, 43, driver of the tractor-trailer, exited his truck's cab and went to the driver's door of the pickup. He opened the door to find Thompson unresponsive and restrained by his safety belt. Despite flames in the cab that ignited the legs of Thompson's pants, Hubbard extended his upper body into the vehicle and cut the safety belt with a pocketknife. He then grasped Thompson by his jacket, pulled him out of the pickup, and dragged him away from the wreckage, which soon became engulfed by flames. Thompson was hospitalized six days for treatment of his injuries, which included second-degree burns. He recovered. Hubbard sustained a back injury in the accident that required medical attention. 77582-8881



CHRISTIAN A. HUBERT

Oceanside, New York

Christian A. Hubert helped to rescue Elizabeth A. Canning from burning, Lindenhurst, New York, January 29, 2004. In early morning, Canning, 42, was on the upper level of her two-story, split-entry house after fire broke out in a bedroom on that level and filled it with dense smoke. On duty, Hubert, 33, police officer, was alerted to the fire and responded to the scene, arriving just after a neighbor had removed Canning's brother from the house. Hubert and the neighbor entered the house and crawled the stairs to the upper level,

but deteriorating conditions forced them outside for air. Again entering to the upper level, they searched for Ms. Canning, Hubert finding her in a dining area opposite the top of the stairs. The neighbor joined him there, and they took Ms. Canning to a back door, which they then found they could not open. After Hubert broke through the door with his flashlight, he and the neighbor removed Ms. Canning to a deck, from which she was taken to safety. Ms. Canning required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns. Hubert and the neighbor also required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. All recovered. 77535-8905



EDWARD L. HUDSON

Seymour, Indiana

Edward L. Hudson helped to rescue Mark J. Friedrich from two attacking dogs, Seymour, Indiana, January 26, 2004. Mark, 14, was attacked by two Rottweilers, each weighing more than 80 pounds, after he went to the aid of a young girl who was being attacked by the dogs in a neighbor's yard. One of the dogs bit him on the arm as he attempted to fight them off. Another neighbor, Hudson, a retired factory worker who was five days from his 80th birthday, responded with a stick he had obtained from his woodpile and struck one of the dogs. When a police officer approached about then, the dogs turned on the officer, who shot both of them. The dogs fled but were tracked down and dispatched. Mark and the girl were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for their bite wounds. They recovered. 77653-8897



KATHLEEN IMEL

Hillsboro, Oregon

Kathleen Imel helped to rescue Joshua Pia Perez from attacking dogs, Aloha, Oregon, July 27, 2004. Joshua, 7, was outside playing when two pit bulls approached, then began to chase him. The larger dog, a male weighing about 70 pounds, caught up to him and began to maul him in the street. Imel, 51, caregiver, was approaching in her vehicle at the time. She parked and,

responding to Joshua, screamed at the dogs and kicked them. They retreated but then returned, the male dog inflicting a severe bite wound to Joshua's ear and taking him to the pavement. Imel positioned herself between Joshua and the dogs, shielding him with her body. The male dog bit Imel on the arms and face, inflicting a severe wound in the area of an eyebrow. Others responded to remove Joshua from the scene and keep the dogs at bay. Police arrived and captured the dogs, which were quarantined and later euthanized. Joshua and Imel were taken to the hospital for treatment, including surgery, of their wounds. 77795-8903



FRANK L. JACKSON

Bethesda, Maryland

Frank L. Jackson helped to save Pavel Hruban from drowning, Potomac, Maryland, September 21, 2003. Hruban, 24, entered the Potomac River in Mather Gorge to swim, despite the extremely turbulent water and strong current, the result of a hurricane just days earlier that left the river above flood stage. He was immediately pulled downstream. Jackson, 19, college student, was in a kayak along the opposite bank of the river in that vicinity when he saw Hruban struggling about 50 feet away. Jackson set out after Hruban and met up with him downstream. Hruban grasped the side of the kayak, causing it to list. On instruction by Jackson, Hruban grasped the handle at the back of the craft and held to it as Jackson attempted to paddle back to the bank. Drag provided by Hruban plus the strength of the current overpowered Jackson's attempts, and the kayak was taken about a mile downstream. Near the end of the gorge, the kayak entered a stretch of rapids, and Hruban lost his grip. Jackson maneuvered the craft around for Hruban to re-establish his hold, and the kayak then continued through the remaining rapids. The river widened beyond the gorge and at that point contained a rocky island, which that day was almost inundated. The current took the kayak to the island, where breaking water overturned it, throwing Jackson into the river. Hruban, still holding to the craft, was pulled farther downstream, where he was able to swim ashore. Jackson climbed onto the island, then

was aided to the bank by others using a line. A water rescue team arrived and took Hruban and Jackson to safety. They were tired but not seriously injured, Jackson requiring hospital treatment for abrasions and bruises. He recovered. 77296-8878



SAMUEL JUSTIN JOHNSON

Las Vegas, Nevada

Samuel Justin Johnson saved Jeffrey H. Richards from burning, North Las Vegas, Nevada, September 23, 2003. Richards, 60, was the pilot of a single-engine airplane that was preparing to land on an airport runway. Johnson, 51, retired air traffic controller, was the pilot of another small plane, which was about to take off from an intersecting runway. The planes collided, creating an explosive burst of flame. Richards's plane came to a stop upside down and aflame at its front, one of its wings in contact with a wing of Johnson's plane. Although sustaining significant lacerations, and a burn on one arm, Johnson was able to exit his plane. He started to run from the scene but returned to the wreckage on not seeing anyone else emerge from it. Despite flames and leaking fuel there, Johnson knelt at the left side of Richards's plane. He extended his arms through a window opening and assisted Richards, who was semiconscious, in removing his restraints. Johnson then grasped Richards and pulled him through the window to safety. Airport personnel responded within minutes and extinguished the flames. Both Richards and Johnson were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for injuries, Johnson's including a second-degree burn to his left arm, several lacerations to his face, and permanent damage to an eye.

77232-8947



WILLIAM EUGENE JONES

Jonesboro, Georgia

William Eugene Jones died after helping to save a girl from drowning, Panama City Beach, Florida, July 2, 2003. While wading in the Gulf of Mexico, two 17-year-old girls screamed for help as a strong current pushed them farther from shore. Warning flags had been posted on the beach, as surf conditions were rough from the passage of a tropical storm two days earlier. From the beach, Jones, 54, national distribution manager, and others heard the cries and responded to the waterline. Jones and others then ran into the water and began to swim toward the girls. Jones reached one of them and pushed her toward another responding rescuer, who then started toward shore with her. A responding police officer rescued the girls, and one of the other rescuers, with the use of a personal watercraft. Jones, meanwhile, was seen floating farther from shore, and he was recovered by others. He was taken to the hospital, where he died of drowning. 77038-8888



MICHAEL J. KANE

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Michael J. Kane helped to save James P. Lawver from drowning, Avon, North Carolina, August 8, 2004. Lawver, 43, was swimming in shallow water of the Atlantic Ocean with his teenage son when they were caught by a current and swept far out, into deeper water. They shouted for help as they struggled to remain afloat at a point about 300 feet from shore. Kane, 48, letter carrier, was on the beach in the vicinity with two other men. Despite rough surf conditions, including high breakers, that were the result of a hurricane passing days earlier, they entered the water, the other men finding Lawver submerged, supporting his son. One of those men grasped Lawver's son and returned him to shore while the other secured a hold around Lawver's chest and began to swim in with him. Kane joined in the rescue of Lawver, whose being inert bogged him and the other rescuer beneath the surface of the water. They swam him to shore, the current forcing them on a

diagonal course. Lawver and his son were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for effects of their ordeal; they recovered. Kane was nearly exhausted, but he recovered later that day. 77921-8909



ANDREW A. KINDRED

Portage, Wisconsin

Andrew A. Kindred rescued Desmond N. Julson from burning, Portage, Wisconsin, October 19, 2004. Desmond, 3, was in the bathroom of an apartment, which was contained within a large barn structure, after fire broke out in the adjoining kitchen. Asleep in one of the apartment's bedrooms, Kindred, 22, process technician, was alerted to the fire by Desmond's mother. He fled the building to learn that Desmond was still inside. Despite flames growing rapidly in the kitchen and living room, Kindred, barefoot, re-entered the building and made his way through those rooms to the bathroom. He returned outside carrying Desmond; both were severely burned. Flames engulfed the apartment and spread to much of the barn. Desmond and Kindred required extensive hospitalization for treatment, including skin grafting, of their burns, Kindred's being to 40 percent of his body. 78061-8950



JON KITAMURA

Woodland, California

Jon Kitamura saved Desiree O. Lopez, Melvin Miller, and two others from burning, Grimes, California, August 28, 2004. Lopez, 18, and two men were rear-seat passengers, and Miller, 21, was the front-seat passenger, in a sport utility vehicle that left the highway, struck a tree, and caught fire at its front end. Off duty, Kitamura, 45, highway patrol officer, was driving on the same highway and came upon the scene shortly after the accident. Finding the vehicle's doors jammed but the window of the driver's door broken out, he leaned through the window opening, grasped Lopez, and pulled her from the vehicle as flames began to enter its passenger compartment. Another man who responded broke out the vehicle's back window. Kitamura climbed

through that window, grasped one of the men in the back seat, and removed him from the vehicle, then he re-entered the vehicle and rescued the other man in similar fashion. A third time Kitamura entered the vehicle through the rear window. He made his way to the front seat, where he unfastened Miller's safety belt. He grasped Miller and pulled him to the back of the vehicle, then exited with him. The vehicle was shortly filled with flame. Lopez, Miller, and the two other men all required hospital treatment for their injuries, but they were not burned. Kitamura recovered from minor smoke inhalation and cuts. 77939-8949



SERGE LANDRY

Amqui, Quebec

Serge Landry died attempting to save Denis Gagné from drowning, Amqui, Quebec, June 14, 2003. Friends Gagné, 42, and Landry, 41, garage operator, were kayaking the Matapédia River with members of their families and other friends. At an abandoned hydroelectric dam, Gagné took his kayak over the three-foot waterfall without incident, but then the kayak became caught in the backwash below the dam and was drawn back to it. The kayak rolled, spilling Gagné from it, and he became trapped in the turbulent water at the base of the dam. Landry, who had exited the river, reboarded his kayak and, from the bank just downstream of the dam, paddled to Gagné. He left the kayak and grasped hold of Gagné's life jacket. Landry too was then caught in the turbulent water at the base of the dam. Minutes later, he and Gagné were ejected from the backwash, and they floated downstream. Responding emergency personnel removed them from the water and resuscitation was attempted, but they had drowned. 77808-8910



JOHN LANE

Brunswick, Georgia

John Lane saved Gary L. and Sally W. Puckett from burning, Darien, Georgia, March 17, 2004. Puckett, 61, and his wife, 51, were the driver and front-seat passenger, respectively, of a sedan that was struck by an out-of-control tractor-trailer on an interstate highway bridge. The trailer became separated from the rig and continued moving while the tractor came to rest adjacent to the Pucketts' car. Both of those vehicles caught fire, as did fuel from at least one ruptured tank that flowed onto the bridge deck. Dazed and severely injured, Puckett and his wife remained inside their car as a wall of flames spread across the bridge deck, and flames began to enter the car through its driver's window. Another motorist, Lane, 50, logging contractor, witnessed the accident and pulled onto the median. Approaching the scene on foot, he saw Ms. Puckett struggling in the burning car. He hurried to the front passenger door, opened it, and worked to detach her safety belt. Puckett, meanwhile, lay atop his wife. Lane pulled him from the car and dragged him away, then returned to the car and worked to free Ms. Puckett. An explosion outside the car increased the flames that were issuing through the driver's window. Lane pulled Ms. Puckett out of the car and away from the burning vehicles. Neither she nor her husband was burned, but each required extensive hospitalization for treatment of significant injuries.

77800-8922



MATHIAS D. MACIEJEWSKI

Los Angeles, California

Mathias D. Maciejewski helped to rescue Shannon Parker from an attacking mountain lion, Kernville, California, June 26, 2004. Parker, 27, was hiking in the Sequoia National Forest when she was attacked by a mountain lion. The undernourished, 58-pound male lion dragged her from the trail and about 25 feet down a steep embankment, where it mauled her about the face. Three friends with whom she had been hiking, including Maciejewski, 28,

law student, were a distance behind her and heard her screams for help. They immediately responded, Maciejewski arriving first. He descended to Parker and grasped her about the waist as he attempted to push the lion away with his foot. The other friends arrived, and one of them handed Maciejewski a pocketknife. Maciejewski stabbed the lion twice, but it maintained its grasp of Parker. While the other friend ran to alert help, the friend who had provided the knife threw rocks at the lion, and it released Parker. As Maciejewski and that friend were attempting to get Parker up the embankment, the lion bit into her right leg and again maintained its grasp. The friend struck the lion repeatedly about the head with rocks until it released her. Maciejewski and the friend walked Parker to safety. She was airlifted to one hospital, then transferred to another, where she was treated for extensive injury, including the loss of an eye. Maciejewski recovered from a laceration to his ankle. 77949-8913



SPENCER C. MADRIE

Gadsden, Alabama

Spencer C. Madrie saved Hollea D. Battles from burning, Gadsden, Alabama, July 26, 2004. Battles, 24, was trapped in her car after an accident in which the car left the highway, entered the premises of a gasoline station, and struck and knocked over a fuel pump. Spilled gasoline caught fire in the vicinity of the car's fuel tank, and flames spread quickly to envelope the driver's side of the car. Battles released her safety belt but found that the car's doors were inoperable. She screamed for help. Madrie, 18, high school student, witnessed the accident, then, failing to see Battles emerge from her car, left his vehicle and ran to the scene. Despite the growing flames, Madrie approached the passenger side of the car and attempted without success to open the door. He then kicked the window to break it out but was again unsuccessful. Forcing his fingers into the seam around the door, Madrie pried the door open, then with difficulty forced it open wide enough to provide access. He reached into the smoke-filled car, grabbed Battles by the arm,

and helped her out. They ran to safety as flames grew high above the car and entered it along the driver's side. Battles required hospital treatment for her injuries, but she was not burned. She recovered. 77865-8915



D. BRENT MARTIN

Cincinnati, Ohio

D. Brent Martin rescued Lillian L. Gubser from burning, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 18, 2004. Gubser, 79, was in the driver's seat of her car after an accident in which the car struck and knocked over a fuel pump at a service station. Spilled gasoline caught fire, and flames spread underneath the car and along its driver's side. Gubser attempted to escape through the driver's door, but the door was blocked. Martin, 36, real estate appraiser, witnessed the accident from the station's convenience store. Failing to see Gubser emerge from the car, he ran to its passenger side and opened the front door. Despite the growing flames, Martin partially entered the car, reached across to Gubser, and grasped her under the arms. He pulled her from the car, the interior of which shortly became aflame, and took her to safety. Gubser was hospitalized overnight for treatment of minor burns, and she recovered.

78118-8942



CHRISTOPHER P. MEEHAN

Manassas, Virginia

Christopher P. Meehan died helping to save a boy from drowning, Woodbridge, Virginia, July 27, 2003. While on a family picnic, an 11-year-old boy was wading with five other boys in the Potomac River, off the grounds of a state park. They were carried by strong currents into water beyond their depth and shouted for help. A guest at the picnic, Meehan, 33, security systems installer, was standing in wadable water at the scene. He swam out to the boys and, reaching the 11-year-old, grasped him and pushed him to a man who had responded on a personal watercraft. That man took the boy to

safety and also aided in the rescue of four of the other boys. The fifth boy submerged and drowned, as did Meehan. His body was recovered from the river the following day. 77065-8933



ROBERT C. MEYER

Union Beach, New Jersey

Robert C. Meyer helped to rescue Robert E. Erickson, Jr., from burning, East Brunswick, New Jersey, July 8, 2004. Erickson, 32, remained in the driver's seat of a tractor-trailer after an interstate highway accident in which the vehicle collided with a dump truck and caught fire in its engine area. A state trooper patrolling the area came upon the scene within moments and broke out the window of the driver's door. Smoke had filled the cab, and flames were entering it at Erickson's feet. Meyer, 45, delivery driver, also stopped at the scene, and he and the trooper pried the door open enough for Meyer to use his fire extinguisher to calm the flames somewhat in the cab. Meyer then mounted the wreckage, grasped Erickson, and with the trooper lowered him to the pavement. They dragged him to safety on the highway shoulder. Flames grew and spread quickly to envelope the rig, which was destroyed. Erickson was taken to the hospital for treatment of burns to his legs and smoke inhalation. Meyer also was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for smoke inhalation. He recovered. 77799-8920



DONALD JAMES MILLER

Port Moody, British Columbia

Donald James Miller rescued Martina H. Seymour from assault, Port Moody, British Columbia, August 9, 2004. Seymour, 34, struggled against a man who was attempting to abduct her in his pickup truck, which was parked along the side of a street. A motorist, Miller, 48, chief operating officer, saw the struggle as he drove past. Miller parked on the opposite side of the street, about 60 feet from the scene, and began to approach it on foot. As he did so, Seymour ran into the street, the assailant following; the assailant shot at

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Seymour repeatedly with a .22-caliber revolver, striking her and felling her as she reached the other side. Miller returned to his car and entered. Seeing that Seymour had gotten up and was starting to approach, he opened the front passenger door and shouted for her to get in. With Seymour inside the car, Miller started to drive away. The assailant fired again, shattering the passenger-door window and striking Seymour one more time. Miller drove Seymour to safety, and she was hospitalized for treatment of her wounds, which required surgery and a long convalescence. The assailant was pursued by police and exchanged gunfire with them. Shot, he died later that day.

77926-8925



GEORGE W. MILLER

Copague, New York

George W. Miller saved Patrick J. and helped to rescue Elizabeth A. Canning from burning, Lindenhurst, New York, January 29, 2004. In early morning, Canning, 41, and his sister, 42, were on the upper level of a two-story, split-entry house after fire broke out in a bedroom on that level and filled it with dense smoke. Miller, 48, boiler mechanic, was nearby, driving to work, when he came upon the burning house and learned that occupants were inside. He entered the house through the front door and began to ascend the stairs to the upper level but was repulsed by smoke and retreated to the outside. Re-entering, he made his way toward the top of the stairs, where he found Canning. Miller grasped Canning by the arm and led him outside to safety, then he re-entered the house, accompanied by a police officer who had responded. They crawled to the upper level, but deteriorating conditions forced them outside for air. Again entering to the upper level, they searched for Ms. Canning, the officer finding her in a dining area opposite the top of the stairs. Miller joined him there, and they took Ms. Canning to a back door, which they then found they could not open. After the officer broke through the door with his flashlight, he and Miller removed Ms. Canning to a deck,

from which she was taken to safety. Ms. Canning required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns. Miller and the police officer also required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. All recovered.

77534-8904



KEVIN R. MINEHART

Columbus, Ohio

Kevin R. Minehart rescued Mark A. and James S. Boyd from burning, Columbus, Ohio, January 26, 2004. Mark, 3, and his grandfather, Boyd, 64, lay unconscious in a ground-floor bedroom of their home after fire broke out in an adjacent room and spread. Minehart, 29, steel fabricator, was driving in the neighborhood and stopped at the scene when he saw smoke issuing from the house. Learning that Mark remained inside the burning structure, Minehart broke out a window to the bedroom, then climbed through it. Heat was intense in the room, and through the dense smoke he could see little except the glow of flames through the open bedroom door. Crawling along the walls to avoid becoming disoriented, Minehart came across Mark, who was lying on the floor, unconscious. He carried Mark to the window and passed him outside. Before leaving the house himself, Minehart learned that Boyd also was probably inside the room. He retraced his course, going farther to find Boyd lying unconscious on the floor at the doorway to the living room. By then, flames had spread to the wall and ceiling above the doorway. Minehart stood and dragged Boyd to the window, then pushed him out before climbing out himself. Mark suffered smoke inhalation, as did Boyd, who sustained also burns to his upper body. Both were hospitalized. Minehart was treated at the scene for cuts to his hands, and he recovered.

77494-8882



PAUL J. MOORE

Tacoma, Washington

Paul J. Moore saved Andrey Melnichenko from drowning, Ilwaco, Washington, August 16, 2003. Andrey, 11, and his father shouted for help as they struggled against the rough surf of the Pacific Ocean at a point about 150 feet from shore. Camping nearby, Moore, 34, forensic engineer, was alerted to the situation and immediately responded. Despite air and water temperatures in the 60s and eight-foot breakers, Moore entered the surf and began to wade toward Andrey, who was closer to shore than his father. The breakers impeded Moore's progress, drawing him back toward shore. Swimming the rest of the way, Moore reached Andrey, who was barely conscious. He returned Andrey to shore then re-entered the water to look for Andrey's father. The father had disappeared from view, and Moore returned to shore as rescue personnel were arriving. Andrey was taken to the hospital for treatment, and he recovered. Moore was tired after the rescue but recovered later that day. Andrey's father was not found. 77148-8931



COLIN MORGAN

Vancouver, British Columbia

Colin Morgan rescued Tex Daw from assault, Vancouver, British Columbia, December 29, 2003. At night, Daw, 46, was inside the video rental shop he operated when a man entered, pushed him against a shelf, and, holding a knife to his throat, demanded money. A friend of Daw's who was in the shop, Morgan, 29, construction supervisor, immediately approached the assailant, pulled him away from Daw, and pushed him to the floor. The two men struggled for control of the knife, which had a six-inch blade, and Morgan succeeded in disarming the assailant. Police arrived shortly and arrested him. Morgan sustained a cut on his right hand, which was sutured at the hospital. He recovered. 79021-8959



ALEJANDRO J. MUÑOZ

Fontana, California

Alejandro J. Muñoz helped to rescue Frances B. Coon from burning, San Lucas, California, January 16, 2004. Coon, 46, was the front-seat passenger in a sport utility vehicle that crashed on an interstate highway before dawn. The vehicle rolled over in the accident but came to rest upright, flames breaking out at its front end and spreading. Coon, injured and dazed, remained in her seat. Responding motorists included Muñoz, 31, truck driver. He attempted to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher while another responding motorist tried to open the front passenger door. Neither attempt was successful. As flames reached the vehicle's dashboard, Muñoz and the other man entered the back of the vehicle and pulled Coon into the back seat area. They removed her from the vehicle through the left rear door and carried her away shortly before flames engulfed the interior of the vehicle. Coon required hospitalization for her injuries, which included minor burns, and she recovered. 77521-8880



MATTHEW NICKELS

Dayton, Ohio

Matthew Nickels saved Kendall Hock from drowning, Dayton, Ohio, January 24, 2004. Kendall, 7, broke through ice partially covering a water-filled gravel pit. He struggled to stay afloat in an area of open water, at a point about 15 feet from the closest bank. Air and water temperatures were frigid. Driving past the pit, Nickels, 40, welding equipment maintenance repairman, saw movement in the water and stopped to investigate. Discovering Kendall's plight, Nickels called 911, then stepped onto solid ice and, lying on his stomach, inched his way toward Kendall, who was in water at least six feet deep. Nickels intended to reach Kendall with his belt, but, after going about 10 feet, he too broke through the ice. He plunged into the water head first, losing his eyeglasses. Nickels made his way a few feet to Kendall, grasped him, and swam through the open water back to the edge of

the pit. He pushed Kendall out of the water, then exited the pit himself. Arriving rescue workers took Kendall to the hospital, where he was kept overnight. Nickels also required hospital treatment, for hypothermia, and he fully recovered within a few days. 77468-8870



DOUGLAS ROBERT PETERSON

Maple Park, Illinois

Douglas Robert Peterson saved Lela A. Schroyer from being struck by a train, Maple Park, Illinois, March 22, 2004. Schroyer, 90, was trapped inside her car, which was straddling a railroad track after it struck a train on the adjacent track. Peterson, 59, disabled machinist, saw the car and reported it, then, investigating, found Schroyer inside. As he was attempting to remove her through the driver's doorway, Peterson saw a freight train approaching on the same track, traveling about 65 m.p.h. He resumed his efforts at removing Schroyer by leaning into the car, grasping her by a leg and an arm, and pulling on her. They fell to the ballast as the train bore down at slightly diminished speed, its brakes and horn applied by the engineer. Regaining his footing, Peterson moved Schroyer to the other track as the train struck the car and took it 240 feet down the track. Schroyer was hospitalized two weeks for treatment of broken ribs and bruises. She recovered. 77599-8866



CHRISTINE A. PROVENCAL

Cumberland, Rhode Island

Christine A. Provencal saved Marie A. Lamour from drowning, Providence, Rhode Island, December 9, 2003. Lamour, 53, a nonswimmer, bobbed in the frigid water of the Providence River after escaping her vehicle, which had slid off the highway due to wintry conditions and entered the river. Provencal, 40, registered nurse, was driving on the highway and stopped at the scene, where she was alerted to the situation. Provencal left her vehicle and descended to the riverbank, where she removed her jacket and shoes. Although the air temperature was only in the 20s, Provencal entered the

water and swam about 30 feet to Lamour. She grasped Lamour by her jacket and swam back to the bank, where others assisted them from the water. Both women were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia. They recovered. 77391-8890



ROBERT L. PRYOR

Ridgeley, West Virginia

Robert L. Pryor helped attempt to save Deborah C. Whiteman from being struck by a moving vehicle, Wiley Ford, West Virginia, January 14, 2004. Whiteman, 50, was trapped inside her pickup truck, which overturned onto its passenger side during a skidding accident on a snowy night. The truck lay partially on one of the highway lanes. Driving on the same highway, Pryor, 66, retired manager, came upon the scene. He went to the underside of the truck and opened its driver's door. Another motorist also stopped at the scene, and he responded to the opposite side of the truck, at its roof. As the men worked to free Whiteman, who emerged head first through the driver's doorway, a rollback truck approached in the same lane. Pryor shouted a warning, then dived to the side of the highway. The rollback truck struck Whiteman's pickup, knocking it onto its roof. Whiteman was aided from the wreckage and taken to the hospital, where she was treated for bruises, and Pryor sustained a sprained hand and arm. They recovered. The other motorist was seriously injured in the accident and required hospitalization.

77619-8893



JASON MICHAEL QUIRINO

Granada Hills, California

Jason Michael Quirino helped to rescue Shannon Parker from an attacking mountain lion, Kernville, California, June 26, 2004. Parker, 27, was hiking in the Sequoia National Forest when she was attacked by a mountain lion. The undernourished, 58-pound male lion dragged her from the trail and about 25 feet down a steep embankment, where it mauled her about the face. Three

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friends with whom she had been hiking, including Quirino, 30, law student, were a distance behind her and heard her screams for help. They immediately responded. One of the other friends arrived first and, descending to Parker, grasped her about the waist as he attempted to push the lion away with his foot. When Quirino and the other friend arrived, Quirino handed the first rescuer a pocketknife. He stabbed the lion twice, but it maintained its grasp of Parker. While the other friend ran to alert help, Quirino threw rocks at the lion, and it released Parker. As Quirino and the other rescuer were attempting to get Parker up the embankment, the lion bit into her right leg and again maintained its grasp. Quirino struck the lion repeatedly about the head with rocks until it released her. Quirino and the other rescuer walked Parker to safety. She was airlifted to one hospital, then transferred to another, where she was treated for extensive injury, including the loss of an eye. Quirino recovered from a minor sprain to an ankle and scratches to his arms and legs. 77950-8914



MICHAEL REDICE

Charlotte, North Carolina

Michael Redice rescued Roddie P. Dumas, Jr., from attacking dogs, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 16, 2004. Roddie, 8, was being attacked by four adult pit bulls in the back yard of the house where his father lived. Redice, 48, letter carrier, was on his route in the neighborhood when he heard Roddie screaming for help. Redice ran to the yard, which was bordered by a chain-link fence, and threw his mailbag over the fence at the dogs to distract them. He then obtained a piece of wood and jumped over the fence. Shouting at the dogs, Redice advanced, swinging the piece of wood, until the dogs backed away from Roddie. Arriving firefighters removed Roddie from the yard, Redice following, and transported him to the hospital. He was pronounced dead there as the result of his wounds. 78130-8943



JAMES W. RODIN

Pismo Beach, California

James W. Rodin helped to rescue Frances B. Coon from burning, San Lucas, California, January 16, 2004. Coon, 46, was the front-seat passenger in a sport utility vehicle that crashed on an interstate highway before dawn. The vehicle rolled over in the accident but came to rest upright, flames breaking out at its front end and spreading. Coon, injured and dazed, remained in her seat. Responding motorists included Rodin, 41, power plant operator. He attempted to open the front passenger door while another responding motorist tried to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher. Neither attempt was successful. As flames reached the vehicle's dashboard, Rodin opened the rear passenger door and worked to free Coon from her seat. He then entered the back seat from the left rear door and, aided by the other motorist, pulled Coon into the back seat area. They removed her from the vehicle through the left rear door and carried her away shortly before flames engulfed the vehicle's interior. Coon required hospitalization for her injuries, which included minor burns, and Rodin sustained a cut on his hand. They recovered.

77520-8879



THOMAS F. RUTECKI

Lockport, Illinois

Thomas F. Rutecki saved Rosetta A. Wiedemann from being struck by a train, Downers Grove, Illinois, March 2, 2004. Wiedemann, 65, was crossing a railroad track on her electric scooter when its front wheel became lodged in the gap between the wooden crosswalk and a rail. She attempted to dislodge the scooter but without success. From the platform of the nearby train station, Rutecki, 55, communications specialist, saw her, then saw a train in the distance approaching on the track. He ran to Wiedemann and attempted to free the scooter, but his efforts likewise were futile. As the train bore down at 70 m.p.h. and was then about 400 feet from the scene, Rutecki pulled Wiedemann from the track to where she fell on the sidewalk. Rutecki pro-

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tected Wiedemann with his leather jacket as the train struck the scooter within seconds, sending debris flying. Wiedemann was treated at the scene for abrasions, and she recovered. 77531-8901



JOHN P. SAWCHUK

Clifton Park, New York

John P. Sawchuk rescued an indeterminate number of persons from assault, East Greenbush, New York, February 9, 2004. A 16-year-old boy entered a restroom of the high school he attended, then emerged brandishing a loaded 12-gauge shotgun. He fired two shots at students in the hall but missed, and the students fled to safety. In a classroom in that wing of the building, Sawchuk, 41, assistant principal, heard the gunshots and, followed by a teacher, proceeded through the hall to investigate. Turning a corner, they saw the armed assailant about 20 feet away. Sawchuk immediately ran to him, grasped him, and started to struggle against him for control of the gun. The assailant fired again, striking the teacher as he approached. Sawchuk convinced the assailant to release the gun, which Sawchuk then handed over to another teacher. He took the assailant into a nearby office and detained him there until police arrived shortly and arrested him. 77487-8916



DALE L. SAYLER

Hebron, North Dakota

Dale L. Sayler saved Robert S. Taylor from being struck by a train, Hebron, North Dakota, November 9, 2004. Taylor, 48, remained in the driver's seat of a van that was stuck on a railroad track at night. Sayler, 45, bank executive, was alerted to the situation while driving nearby. Responding to the scene, he saw that a freight train was approaching, from about a quarter-mile away. Sayler ran to the driver's door of the van and opened it, then grasped Taylor around the chest and pulled him out of the van. Taylor fell to the track, and again Sayler grasped him about the chest. He dragged Taylor off the track just seconds before the train, in emergency braking, struck the van and

pushed it 165 feet away. When the train stopped, its front was about a half-mile from the point of impact. Neither Sayler nor Taylor was injured.

78129-8960



STEVE J. SCIORTINO

Colusa, California

Steve J. Sciortino saved Richard M. Delafuente from burning, Colusa, California, November 19, 2003. Delafuente, 35, lay semiconscious inside his car after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle overturned and caught fire in its engine compartment. Sciortino, 51, draft technician, who lived nearby, heard the accident, then responded to the scene after reporting it. Despite the flames, which were spreading rapidly, Sciortino approached the passenger side of the car, partially entered head first through the window of the front door, and grasped Delafuente by the arms. As Delafuente outweighed him, Sciortino had difficulty in pulling him from the vehicle. Sciortino dragged Delafuente to safety, flames soon entering the inside of the car and nearly engulfing it. Delafuente required hospital treatment for his injuries.

77569-8877



KEVIN D. SHAW

Ellsworth, Kansas

Kevin D. Shaw died after saving Helena T. Wilkinson from burning, Ellsworth, Kansas, August 15, 2004. Wilkinson, 23, remained in the cab of her pickup truck after an accident in which the vehicle left the highway, overturned, then came to rest upright and aflame in its engine compartment. Traveling on the same highway, Shaw, 48, corrections officer, witnessed the accident. He stopped at the scene, approached the burning truck, and, despite growing flames, attempted to open its passenger door. Wilkinson extended her arms through the rear window of the truck's cab, and Shaw grasped them and pulled her from the vehicle. He took her to a point of safety away from the truck, then collapsed to the ground. Paramedics took

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him and Wilkinson to the hospital, where Wilkinson was treated for her injuries. She recovered. Shaw could not be revived; he had died of a heart attack. 77907-8900



KENNETH H. SLADE

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Kenneth H. Slade died after helping to save Abigail P. Slade from drowning, Palm Beach, Florida, March 21, 2004. Abigail, 10, and her cousin were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when they were caught by a strong current that pulled them farther from shore. On the beach in that vicinity, their paternal uncle, Slade, 48, attorney, saw them struggling and ran into the water for them, as did several other men. Slade reached Abigail and towed her toward shore, then he was relieved of her by one of the other men. That man took her a distance, then, overcome by exhaustion, was separated from her. He was rescued from the surf, and Abigail likewise reached shore safely. Slade lost consciousness and was removed from the water by others. He was taken to the hospital, where he died of drowning. Abigail and her cousin, who was rescued by others, also were taken to the hospital for treatment, and they too recovered. 77566-8894



ROBERT L. SLYDER

Wheeling, West Virginia

Robert L. Slyder helped to save Mildred M. Thompson, Jamie L. Holeczy, and others from drowning, Wheeling, West Virginia, September 17, 2004. Thompson, 80, and her great-niece, Holeczy, 22, were in Thompson's house, on the bank of Middle Wheeling Creek, after the creek flooded as the result of heavy rain from the remnants of a hurricane. Floodwater overtook the houses along that side of the street, trapping Thompson, Holeczy, and others, and it inundated the street, flowing swiftly there. Slyder, 42, radio producer,

was visiting in the vicinity when he learned of the stranded residents. Joined by another man, he started to wade across the street to Thompson's house, but they were swept downstream about 115 feet by the current, or to the point at which each stopped himself by grabbing a tree. Slyder and the other man resumed wading to Thompson's house, where they forced open the front door. They picked Thompson up and, carrying her, waded through the neighboring properties along the street toward an office building, which, 300 feet away, was not significantly affected by flooding. En route, they set her down to allow the other man to return to the house for Holeczy. The men then resumed their course through the floodwaters toward the office building with Thompson and Holeczy and once there forced entry for refuge. With other means of rescue not available for the remaining stranded residents, Slyder and the other man returned to the flooded houses, from which they helped two women to safety in the office building. After Slyder made a third trip to the flooded houses, to aid a man stranded there, the victims were removed from the office building to safety by means of a military truck. Holeczy sustained a cut to her left foot, and Slyder sustained a cut knee, along with bruises and scrapes. They recovered. 78175-8946



SCOT SMITHEE

Hollister, California

Scot Smithee saved Craig A. and Andrea D. Hilty and five others from drowning, Lanai, Hawaii, March 8, 2004. Hilty, 23, and his wife, 22, were aboard a 47-foot catamaran with three other couples, including Smithee, 39, police officer, and his wife, and the boat's two-man crew. All but Smithee and the crewmen were in the craft's cabin, as inclement weather was fostering nine-foot-high swells. At a point about two miles from Lanai, the closest land, the catamaran abruptly flipped up from the side and overturned, trapping the cabin occupants inside with only a 1.5-foot airspace overhead. Fumes from leaking fuel tainted the airspace, in which visibility was limited, and lines and other debris in the water blocked the only exit course. The catamaran began to settle in the water, reducing the airspace, and the victims shouted for help. Meanwhile, Smithee and the crewmen, who had been thrown into the water, surfaced and mounted the overturned craft. Smithee

scanned the sea for any survivors, then he assembled a line from shorter lengths of rope to use in a rescue attempt. With one end of the line tied to stern and Smithee holding the free end, he entered the water at stern. Diving to avoid the debris nearer the surface, he swam to the cabin entry, finding that his line was fully extended. He surfaced in the cabin, the airspace in which was reduced to about six inches. Smithee told the seven passengers to make their way along his extended arm to the rope, then to follow the rope beneath the debris and up to the surface. Beginning with Hilty and his wife, each did so, surfacing to mount the vessel. Smithee was the last to leave the cabin. He huddled atop the craft with the others for more than two hours, or until they were spotted by a helicopter. A fishing boat responded, and again Smithee effected the rescue of the catamaran's occupants, taking them one at a time through rough water to a point from which each was pulled aboard the fishing boat. The boat returned all to shore safely. Smithee sustained multiple bruises about his body and a swollen arm, but he recovered.

77603-8953



SETH T. STEIN

Orlando, Florida

Seth T. Stein saved Jamia N. and Jatae K. Queen and helped to save Aja D. Queen from burning, New Kent, Virginia, April 30, 2004. Queen, 25, remained in the driver's seat of her car after an accident in which the vehicle left the highway, entered a wooded median, and caught fire in its engine area. Her daughter Jamia, 5, was in the back seat of the car, and her son Jatae, 6, was in the front seat. Stein, 24, medical supplies salesman, who had been driving behind Queen, witnessed the accident and stopped at the scene. He approached the burning car and, despite growing flames, opened the rear door on the driver's side, leaned into the car, and pulled Jamia from the vehicle after first releasing her safety belt. Returning, Stein fully entered the back-seat area and freed Jatae, whose leg was caught in the wreckage. He pulled Jatae into the back seat, then out of the car. Stein took both children back to the highway, then returned to the car, from which another motorist

had removed Queen. The two men took Queen to safety. Flames by then had spread throughout the inside of the vehicle and issued high above it. Queen was hospitalized for treatment of her injuries, but she was not burned. She recovered. 77668-8893



BRYCE STETLER

Plover, Wisconsin

Bryce Stetler saved Savannah B. Swartz from burning, New Hope, Wisconsin, September 20, 2004. Following a highway accident involving a pickup truck and the sport utility vehicle in which she was the passenger, Savannah, 1, remained strapped in her car seat, which was secured to the back seat of the vehicle. Flames broke out at the front end of that vehicle and grew rapidly, entering the front of the passenger compartment. A motorist, Stetler, 26, lawncare specialist, witnessed the accident. He approached the passenger side of the sport utility vehicle and, hearing Savannah cry, opened the rear door. Despite intense heat about the vehicle and flames and smoke inside, Stetler extended his upper body into the vehicle, placing one knee on the floor. He worked unsuccessfully to release Savannah from her seat, then he pulled the seat free and removed it, with Savannah, outside to safety. After carrying her away, Stetler returned to the vehicles to aid in the rescue of others inside them. Savannah's grandmother, who was driving the sport utility vehicle, died in the accident, as did a passenger in the pickup. Two others in the pickup survived. Savannah was hospitalized overnight for treatment of minor injury. She recovered. 77998-8929



CHARLES R. STEWART III

Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Charles R. Stewart III helped to save Edwin L. Keller III from drowning, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, September 18, 2004. While retrieving a football, Edwin, 12, fell into the rain-swollen Stoneycreek River, which at the scene flowed through a flood-control channel having sloped, concrete banks. He was swept downstream by the very swift current. Stewart, 32, disabled dock-

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worker, was crossing a nearby bridge when he saw Edwin in the water. He immediately ran to a point on the nearer bank opposite Edwin and, removing his shoes, slid down the channel wall and into the river. Stewart swam to Edwin, who climbed on his back, then attempted to return to the wall. The current washed them farther out into the river and about 900 feet downstream, or to the point at which Stewart grasped the branches of a small tree growing from the riverbed. They remained at the tree until arriving firefighters threw a line to them, pulled them back to the bank, and aided them up the wall. Both Edwin and Stewart were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia, and Stewart for a cut to his foot. They recovered. 77953-8921



RALPH SUMNER, JR.

Kinston, North Carolina

Ralph Sumner, Jr., helped to rescue Gary V. Coombs from burning, Kinston, North Carolina, December 25, 2003. Coombs, 51, lay unconscious on the floor of a bedroom in one end of his mobile home after fire erupted in another room. Other residents of the neighborhood, including Sumner, 51, pool builder, saw smoke issuing from the structure and responded to the scene. After one of the men broke open the back door and attempted to remove Coombs, Sumner entered the mobile home and took to the floor because of the dense smoke. He crawled through a hall toward the room in which Coombs had been heard, then, hearing Coombs moan, he entered the room and found Coombs on the floor. Sumner grasped Coombs by one of his ankles, then crawled about nine feet back to the door, pulling him. There, others helped to take Coombs from the mobile home and to safety. Coombs was hospitalized with severe burns and succumbed to his injuries five days later. 77447-8876



HOWARD R. TALBOTT

Bedford, Pennsylvania

Howard R. Talbott helped attempt to save Deborah C. Whiteman from being struck by a moving vehicle, Wiley Ford, West Virginia, January 14, 2004. Whiteman, 50, was trapped inside her pickup truck, which overturned onto its passenger side during a skidding accident on a snowy night. The truck lay partially on one of the highway lanes. Driving on the same highway, Talbott, 61, came upon the scene. He went to a point alongside the roof of the truck, where another responding motorist opened the truck's driver's door. As the men worked to free Whiteman, who emerged head first through the driver's doorway, a rollback truck approached in the same lane. The other motorist shouted a warning, then dived to the side of the highway. The rollback truck struck Whiteman's pickup, knocking it onto its roof. Whiteman was aided from the wreckage and taken to the hospital, where she was treated for bruises. She recovered. Talbott was seriously injured in the accident and required six days' hospitalization for treatment, including surgery.

77572-8884



ALEXANDER TEZSLA

Wrightstown, New Jersey

Alexander Tezsla helped to rescue Robert E. Erickson, Jr., from burning, East Brunswick, New Jersey, July 8, 2004. Erickson, 32, remained in the driver's seat of a tractor-trailer after an interstate highway accident in which the vehicle collided with a dump truck and caught fire in its engine area. Tezsla, 34, a state trooper patrolling the area, came upon the scene within moments. He tried to gain access to the tractor cab but found that both of its doors were jammed shut. Tezsla then mounted the fuel tank on the driver's side of the tractor and broke out the window of the driver's door. Smoke had filled the cab, and flames were entering it at Erickson's feet. A delivery driver also stopped at the scene, and he and Tezsla pried the door open enough for the driver to use his fire extinguisher to calm the flames somewhat in the cab.

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Tezsla and the driver, who also mounted the wreckage, grasped Erickson and lowered him to the pavement, then they dragged him to safety on the highway shoulder. Flames grew and spread quickly to envelope the rig, which was destroyed. Erickson was taken to the hospital for treatment of burns to his legs and smoke inhalation. Tezsla also was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for smoke inhalation and a cut to his right hand. He recovered. 77798-8919



ELVIN LEO TROXLER

Ellerbe, North Carolina

Elvin Leo Troxler died after helping to save Summer L. Troxler from drowning, Ellerbe, North Carolina, January 4, 2005. Summer, 11 months old, was in the back seat of a sport utility vehicle that, from a parked position, rolled down a steep lawn and entered a pond. In the darkness, the vehicle began to sink in water about 10 feet deep at a point about 40 feet from the bank. Summer's grandfather, Troxler, 67, retired supervisor, lived at the scene. Alerted to the situation, he ran down to the pond, entered the water, and swam out to the driver's side of the vehicle, joining Summer's mother, who also had swum out. Unable to open the doors on that side of the vehicle, Summer's mother moved to the passenger side and Troxler hoisted himself partially onto the vehicle, thereby tilting its passenger side up. Summer's mother then opened the rear passenger-side door and removed Summer from the vehicle. As other relatives who responded took Summer and her mother back to the bank, Troxler was seen floating face down near the vehicle. He too was removed to the bank, where resuscitation was attempted. Troxler was taken to the hospital, where he died five days later. Summer and her mother were also hospitalized, overnight, for effects of taking in water, and they recovered. 77148-8930



KARL VAARTJES

Mississauga, Ontario

Karl Vaartjes rescued Deborah A. Fowler and Ryland C. Jacobs from an attacking dog, Mississauga, Ontario, December 8, 2003. Fowler, 36, and her son, Ryland, 4, were playing in the front yard of their house when a 45-pound pit bull and another dog approached. The pit bull attacked Ryland, biting him on the wrist. It then attacked Fowler when she attempted to fight it off. Vaartjes, 43, technical director, who lived about 300 feet away, had seen the dogs earlier and was outside to investigate when he heard Fowler calling for help. He ran toward the scene, and when he had approached to about 10 feet from Fowler and Ryland, the pit bull lunged at him, biting him in the arm. The dog then resumed its attack on Ryland. Vaartjes lifted Ryland by his coat and held him up, out of the dog's reach, but the dog bit Vaartjes in the leg. Fowler pulled the dog from Vaartjes and secured it while Vaartjes took Ryland to safety. Vaartjes then returned and held the dog to allow Fowler to flee. A police officer arrived within minutes and took control of the dog. Fowler, Ryland, and Vaartjes were taken to the hospital for treatment of their bite and puncture wounds, Fowler's and Vaartjes's requiring sutures.

77425-8872



BRYAN T. VERDEUR

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Bryan T. Verdeur saved Kyle J. Lawver from drowning, Avon, North Carolina, August 8, 2004. Kyle, 14, was swimming in shallow water of the Atlantic Ocean with his father when they were caught by a current and swept far out, into deeper water. They shouted for help as they struggled to remain afloat. Verdeur, 20, auto body technician, was on the beach in the vicinity with his brother and another man. Despite rough surf conditions, including high breakers, that were the result of a hurricane passing days earlier, Verdeur entered the water and swam to Kyle and his father, who were then about 300 feet from shore. Kyle, supported by his father, who was sub-

merged, grasped Verdeur about the neck and submerged him. Verdeur's brother also had entered the water, as did the other man, and arrived about then. He secured a hold on Kyle's father as Verdeur grasped Kyle around the chest and swam back to shore with him, the current forcing them on a diagonal course. Verdeur removed Kyle to safety as his brother and the other man returned Kyle's father. Kyle and his father were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for effects of their ordeal; they recovered. Verdeur was winded, but he too recovered. 77919-8907



PATRICK KEVIN VERDEUR

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Patrick Kevin Verdeur helped to save James P. Lawver from drowning, Avon, North Carolina, August 8, 2004. Lawver, 43, was swimming in shallow water of the Atlantic Ocean with his teenage son when they were caught by a current and swept far out, into deeper water. They shouted for help as they struggled to remain afloat. Verdeur, 21, automotive technician, was on the beach in the vicinity with his brother and another man. Despite rough surf conditions, including high breakers, that were the result of a hurricane passing days earlier, Verdeur entered the water and swam to Lawver and his son, who were then about 300 feet from shore. Lawver was submerged, supporting his son. Verdeur secured a hold on Lawver as his brother, who also had entered the water, grasped the son. Holding Lawver around the chest, Verdeur started back toward shore, the current forcing them on a diagonal course. The other man also had entered the water and joined him in grasping Lawver, whose being inert bogged them beneath the surface. Verdeur and the other man returned Lawver to shore and aided him to safety as did Verdeur's brother, with Lawver's son. Lawver and his son were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for effects of their ordeal; they recovered. Verdeur was tired, but he too recovered. 77920-8908



TERENCE MICHAEL WILES

Luzerne, Michigan

Terence Michael Wiles helped to rescue Michael C. and Chad A. Turner from burning, Luzerne, Michigan, September 14, 2004. Brothers Michael, 12, and Chad, 10, were sleeping on the upper level of their family's 1.5-story house after fire broke out there late at night and filled it with dense smoke. A neighbor, Wiles, 46, was alerted to the fire and immediately responded. He entered the house and ran upstairs, but the smoke and intense heat repulsed his repeated attempts to enter the upper level. Wiles exited the house, climbed atop a one-story extension, and broke out a window to vent the upper level. Retracing his course up the stairs, he entered the second level and found Michael, who lay unconscious in a cubbyhole extending the length of the house. Wiles pulled Michael from the cubbyhole through an opening in the wall and took him to the stairs, where he handed him to Michael's father. Wiles then returned to the cubbyhole, found Chad, who also was unconscious, and moved him toward the opening, but he was repulsed by smoke and heat and returned downstairs. A sheriff's deputy had responded to the scene by then. He went upstairs, found Chad, and carried him downstairs and outside to safety. Both boys were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Michael had second-degree burns to his face. Wiles was treated at the hospital for a cut hand and minor smoke inhalation. All recovered. 78101-8935



DAWN MARIE WILLIAMS

Franklin Park, New Jersey

Dawn Marie Williams attempted to save Christopher W. McPhatter from burning, Maplewood, New Jersey, December 16, 2003. Christopher, 7, was in the basement of his family's house after fire broke out there at night. All other occupants of the house fled, then realized that Christopher was missing, and efforts to find him were thwarted by deteriorating fire conditions. On duty in the neighborhood, Williams, 32, police officer, responded to the

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scene and learned that Christopher was still inside. Although she had no protective equipment, Williams entered the house through the front door, despite intense heat and dense smoke that precluded visibility, and searched for Christopher. Forced back outside, Williams attempted to access the basement through a side door, but again she was unsuccessful. On a third attempt, Williams re-entered the house through the front door and searched further. Smoke conditions and rapidly spreading flames forced her outside, where she was overcome by effects of inhaling smoke. Firefighters then arriving recovered Christopher from the basement. He was taken to the hospital but succumbed to effects of the fire. Williams too was taken to the hospital, where she was admitted to the burn intensive care unit in serious condition for smoke inhalation and respiratory failure. She was detained five days and was unable to work for two months, but she recovered. 77511-8891



MATTHEW JAMES WILSON

Imperial Beach, California

Matthew James Wilson saved Helen N. Sylvia and two others from drowning, Imperial Beach, California, January 18, 2004. In evening darkness, Helen, 13, and two friends struggled to stay afloat in the extremely rough surf of the Pacific Ocean at a point about 300 feet from shore. Beneath a pier that extended several hundred feet into the ocean, they clung to the pier's piling as eight-foot breakers battered them. The tide was near high, and currents in the frigid water were strong. Wilson, 31, was on the beach in the vicinity when he was alerted to the situation. A municipal lifeguard in season, he called for help from a nearby lifeguard station, then assembled gear, including a wet suit, fins, and rescue tubes. He responded to a point on the pier from which he saw, by flashlight, one of Helen's friends clinging to a pile. Although tired from having worked that day as a diver, Wilson jumped 20 feet from the pier into the water, swam to the youth, 13, and, using a rescue tube, towed him to wadable water near shore. Returning to the pier, he saw Helen, likewise clinging to a pile beneath the structure. A second time Wilson jumped into the surf; he swam to Helen, who was entangled in an electrical cord that had been lowered to her as an aid. Wilson too became entangled in

the cord, by his feet, and was temporarily hampered. Again using a rescue tube, he took Helen to wadable water. He returned to the pier a second time and looked for the third youth, 12, spotting her after a few minutes at a point about 45 feet from the pier. Wilson jumped a third time from the pier, then swam to the girl, secured her with a tube, and towed her to safety. All three youths received hospital treatment for minor injuries, including abrasions, and they recovered. Wilson recovered from fatigue and minor cuts and bruises. 78464-8955



ALBERT YBARRA

Dublin, California

Albert Ybarra helped to save Everardo Meza and Jorge Lopez from drowning, Hayward, California, September 7, 2004. In a highway accident on a bridge, Everardo, 4, and another boy were thrown from a van over the bridge railing and 20 feet down into San Francisco Bay. Another passenger from the van, Lopez, 31, who was Everardo's father, jumped into the water from the bridge and held onto Everardo. The water was cold and, because of the incoming tide, was moving swiftly away from that side of the bridge. Ybarra, 33, field technician, came upon the scene while driving on the bridge. Seeing Lopez and Everardo struggling at a point about 100 feet from the bridge, Ybarra removed his shoes and, not knowing the depth of the water, jumped from the bridge. He swam to Lopez and grasped the back of his shirt, then began to return to the bridge, towing him and Everardo. When they had covered about half the distance, another man jumped from the bridge and swam to them. He took Everardo from Lopez and swam back to the bridge as Ybarra continued with Lopez. Those on the bridge had lowered a cable and rope from a tow truck, and by means of those lines all four were pulled from the water. Lopez and Everardo received hospital treatment for abrasions. Ybarra bruised his thigh, and he recovered. The other boy was not found.

78119-8956

2005 AWARD STATISTICS

MEDALS

Ninety-two Carnegie Medals were awarded in 2005, bringing the total to 8,961 since the Fund was established in 1904. To date, the Commission has considered 78,964 rescue acts.

Especially do we remember those who gave their lives saving or attempting to save others. Eleven such sacrifices were honored during 2005, bringing the total to date to 1,886:

Richard Conrad	Serge Landry
Robert Diaz	Christopher P. Meehan
Dennis D. Gillespie	Kevin D. Shaw
Domenic G. Giunta	Kenneth H. Slade
Del'Trone D. Gomillia	Elvin Leo Troxler
William Eugene Jones	

MONETARY GRANTS	2005	TO DATE
For continuing support of widows, widowers, and other dependents, and disabled heroes	\$251,005	\$ 15,032,066
Monetary awards, including educational assistance, and medals	482,440	13,184,813
TOTALS	\$ 733,445	\$28,216,879

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(Shown with year of election)

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Arthur M. Scully, Jr. 1964
William P. Snyder III 1951
Jerald A. Solot 2003
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Carol A. Word

* *The President is ex officio
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